

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

DATE: MARCH 12, 2024
TIME: 1:00 P.M. MEETING CALL TO ORDER
LOCATION: NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE – TIMBERWOLF CONFERENCE CENTER/D100,
1000 W. CAMPUS DRIVE, WAUSAU, WI 54401 AND VIA [ZOOM](#)

CALL TO ORDER

- A. Compliance with Open Meetings Law (Wis. Stat. 19.81-19.88)
- B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- C. Public Comment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2024 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

ACTION ITEMS

- A. [Approval of 2024-2025 Capital Budget](#) – Chet Strebe
- B. [Approval of Lease: Medford Campus from NTC Property Foundation, Inc.](#) – Chet Strebe
- C. [Merrill CDL Truck Training Center Addition](#) – Chet Strebe
- D. [Diesel Training Center Addition](#) – Chet Strebe
- E. [CHS Dental Clinic Renovation](#) – Chet Strebe
- F. [CHS Dental Therapy Addition](#) – Chet Strebe
- G. [Workforce Training + Professional Development Renovation](#) – Chet Strebe
- H. [Wausau - D Building Renovation](#) – Chet Strebe
- I. [Emergency Services Training Center Addition](#) – Chet Strebe
- J. [Ag Center Vestibule Addition](#) – Chet Strebe
- K. [Approval of Board Policy 2.9: Board Agenda + Meetings](#) – Jeannie Worden

CONSENT VOTING AGENDA

- A. Approval of Consent Voting Agenda Including:
 - a. [Program Proposal of the Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary Program](#)
 - b. [Receipts + Expenditures](#)
 - c. [Personnel Changes](#)

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- A. Transportation 4.0 – Iain Cameron + Greg Cisewski

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- A. President's Report
 - a. Student Representative Update – Mason Knab
 - b. Comments from Informational Update
- B. Chairperson's Report
 - a. Spring 2024 Board Appointment Update
 - b. Reminder to Complete Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) by 4/30/2024
 - c. WTC DBA Spring Meeting: March 22-23, 2024, Nicolet College – Rhinelander + Zoom
 - d. Next Regular NTC Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, Medford Campus at 1:00 p.m.
- C. Information
 - a. [Capital Projects Monitoring Report](#)
 - b. Spring Graduation Ceremony: Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at Wausau West Fieldhouse
 - c. [Advisory Meeting Minutes](#)
 - d. [Upcoming Meetings + Events](#)
 - e. [Good News](#)

CLOSED SESSION (IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ABOVE OPEN MEETING)

- A. Adjourn the Board into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(g) for the purpose of:
 - a. Update on Potential Litigation

OPEN SESSION

- A. Reconvene the Board into Open Session to confirm any action deemed necessary as a result of the Closed Session.

MEETING ADJOURN

CAMPUS TOUR

Following adjournment of the Regular Meeting, NTC Board of Trustees will tour the Helping Skills Lab. It is anticipated that a quorum of NTC Board of Trustees may be in attendance. No official Board business will be conducted.



Note: Meetings of the Northcentral Technical College District Board are held in compliance with Wisconsin's "Open Meetings Law".

Mission: Northcentral Technical College provides high-quality, learner and employer focused, educational pathways committed to enriching lives and strengthening the economy.

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: 2024-2025 Capital Budget Planning

POLICY 1.3.1 Budgeting – may not cause or allow budgeting which contains too little information, as determined by the Board to enable *credible projection* of revenues and expenses, separation of capital and operational items, cash flow, and disclosure of *planning assumptions*.

1.6.5 Asset Protection - may not make any purchases or commit the organization to any *expenditure of greater than \$50,000*.

INTERPRETATION: *Credible projections* are based on multiyear plans supporting community benefits statements and executive limitations. *Planning assumptions* are based on multi-year capital expenditure plans and funding sources. *Expenditures greater than \$50,000* must have board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: Attached are three planning documents.

1. *2024-2025 Capital Expenditure Funding Sources* shows the funding plan for the next year's capital budget.
2. *2024-2025 Capital Expenditure Summary* shows categories of capital expenditures for next year's capital budget.
3. *2024-2025 Capital Equipment Budget Requests* provides additional information and identifies *expenditures greater than \$50,000* requiring board approval.

At this meeting today, NTC is presenting the Board with a resolution to approve capital expenditures of \$14,917,172 which includes a May 2024 borrowing of \$13,500,000 and anticipated fund balance usage of \$1,417,172.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

- Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

Approval not to exceed the \$14,917,172 capital expenditures budget, funded through capital borrowings of \$13,500,000 and anticipated fund balance usage of \$1,417,172, including identified items exceeding \$50,000.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed Dr. Jeanie Worden

Dated 3/12/2024

2024-2025 Capital Expenditure Funding Sources

\$14,917,172	Total Capital Expenditures Budget
\$13,500,000	Funded through Annual Capital Borrowings
\$1,417,172	Funded through Fund Balance
\$0	Funded through Anticipated Donations
\$0	Funded through Anticipated Grants

2024-2025 Capital Expenditure Summary

<u>Description</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2024-2025</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
Previously Committed Capital Expenditures		
Distance Education Leases	\$89,820	
Licenses & Other Items	<u>\$4,413,856</u>	\$4,503,676
Capital Contingency Fund	<u>\$750,000</u>	\$750,000
Technology Maintenance		
Advanced Technology Initiatives	\$175,000	
Microcomputers and Consulting	\$753,000	
Network Equipment	\$525,000	
Smart Classrooms	<u>\$50,000</u>	\$1,503,000
High Priority Educational Needs		
Equipment and Software	<u>\$2,410,496</u>	\$2,410,496
Long Range Facility Plan Recommendations		
Regional Campuses	\$1,505,000	
Central Campus	<u>\$4,245,000</u>	<u>\$5,750,000</u>
Total Capital Expenditures Budget		\$14,917,172

2024-2025 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items \$50,000 or more)

Division	Description	Borrowing Category (Equipment, New Square Footage, Remodeling and Improvements, Repairs and Maintenance)	Site (District-Wide; Site 1 = Wausau and Ag Center of Excellence; Site 2 = Antigo, Merrill, and Wittenberg; Site 3 = Medford, Phillips, and Spencer)	Item Requested	Impact (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)	Depreciable Life	Cost	Estimated start date	Estimated end date	Estimated date all proceeds spent
Information Technology	License & Other	Equipment	District Wide	Workday Implementation + Licenses	Workday is our replacement for PeopleSoft HR, Finance, and Student.	15 years	\$2,004,850	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	License & Other	Equipment	District Wide	Microsoft software and other software licenses	Software licenses necessary to conduct business and training throughout the District.	5 years	\$1,728,906	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Microcomputers & Consulting	Equipment	District Wide	Maintain 3-year replacement rotation for lab workstations and 5-year employee rotation	Workstation replacements per the long-term computer refresh plan.	5 years	\$500,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	License & Other	Equipment	District Wide	Other Software development staffing - charged to Capital	Workday is our replacement for PeopleSoft HR, Finance, and Student.	15 years	\$450,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Network Equipment - Servers / Repairs	Equipment	District Wide	Server/Network	Regular maintenance and replacement of servers that provide services and communications within the network, as well as the network itself.	5 years	\$400,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Microcomputers & Consulting	Equipment	District Wide	Advanced Consulting	District-wide and distance learner impact.	N/A	\$253,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	License & Other	Equipment	District Wide	PeopleSoft Server Upgrades	Required server and software maintenance	N/A	\$113,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Contingency	Equipment	District Wide	Annual Contingency	IT improvement projects require contingency funding as project needs arise	N/A	\$100,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Leases	Equipment	District Wide	Charter and other providers (Wide Area Network)	District-wide and distance learner impact. Provides connectivity to regional campuses and the Internet. Impacts all students, employees, and stakeholders.	N/A	\$74,820	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Network Equipment - Servers / Repairs	Equipment	District Wide	Cameras and Equipment for Safety & Security	Increased Safety and Security for all students and staff.	5 years	\$50,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Network Equipment - Servers / Repairs	Equipment	District Wide	Data Cabling and Telephones	Renovations related to building remodeling.	5 years	\$50,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Advanced Technology Initiatives	Equipment	Site 2	Donor Addition	IT infrastructure equipment needs for Donor Addition project.	15 years	\$50,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Advanced Technology Initiatives	Equipment	Site 1	Emergency Services Training Center	IT infrastructure equipment needs for Emergency Services Training Center project.	15 years	\$50,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Information Technology	Smart Classrooms	Equipment	District Wide	Smart Classrooms - NTC Connect	District-wide and distance learner impact. Smart Classroom – NTC Connect project which consists of learning space classroom upgrades.	5 years	\$50,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025

2024-2025 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items \$50,000 or more)

Division	Descprition	Borrowing Category (Equipment, New Square Footage, Remodeling and Improvements, Repails and	Site (District-Wide; Site 1 = Wausau and Ag Center of Excellence; Site 2 = Antigo, Merrill, and Wittenberg;	Item Requested	Impact (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)	Depreciable Life	Cost	Estimated start date	Estimated end date	Estimated date all proceeds spent
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Repairs and Maintenance	Site 1	E Parking Lot Resurfacing	Life cycle replacement	15 years	\$700,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	New Square Footage	Site 1	Emergency Services Training Center	Addition to the Emergency Services Training Center to expand classrooms and add a sally port.	15 years	\$600,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Merrill Campus	New Square Footage	Site 2	CDL Addition (Funded w/Prior Year Borrowings)	Additions to support our Industry 4.0 iniative in Ag and Transportation to expand program offerings.	15 years	\$500,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Repairs and Maintenance	Site 1	H Building Roof Replacement	Life cycle replacement	15 years	\$450,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Repairs and Maintenance	Site 1	CHS HVAC Upgrades Phase 3	Life cycle replacement	15 years	\$400,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	New Square Footage	Site 1	Industry 4.0 - Ag + Transportation CNG at Diesel	Additions to support our Industry 4.0 iniative in Ag and Transportation to expand program offerings.	15 years	\$400,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Merrill Campus	Equipment	Site 2	Equipment for PSCE	Equipment to support public safety AI technology	5 years	\$300,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Remodeling and Improvements	Site 1	Dental Improvements/Security	Program expansdion and FTE growth for Dental Therapy, Expanded Function Dental Assistance (EFDA), and increasing dental hygiene and dental assistance offerings.	15 years	\$265,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Remodeling and Improvements	Site 1	D Building Renovation	Add additional classrooms for Criminal Justice program, increase accessibility to single use bathrooms, and create a Student Resource Center within Student Life.	15 years	\$475,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	New Square Footage	Site 1	Dental Vestibule Addition	Improve patient access to the dental clinic from the CHS Parking Lot.	15 years	\$200,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Remodeling and Improvements	Site 1	WTPD Training Rooms	Remodeling to create additional large capacity, flexible training rooms for business and industry contract training.	15 years	\$200,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Repairs and Maintenance	Site 1	H Building Air Handler	Life cycle replacement	15 years	\$150,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Phillips Campus	Equipment	Site 3	Splash Tower Replacement	Life cycle replacement	5 years	\$150,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Repairs and Maintenance	Site 1	Corridor Carpet Replacement (Campus wide)	Life cycle replacement	15 years	\$140,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	District Wide	Equipment	District Wide	Annual Contingency	Building remodeling projects require contingency funding as project needs arise	N/A	\$125,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025

2024-2025 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items \$50,000 or more)

Facilities	Regional Campus	Repairs and Maintenance		Corridor Carpet Replacement (Regionals)	Life cycle replacement	15 years	\$100,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Repairs and Maintenance	Site 1	Alternative Fuel Boiler Upgrades	Life cycle replacement	15 years	\$100,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Repairs and Maintenance	Site 1	Apprenticeship Classroom/Lab Refresh	Aesthetic improvements, classroom enhancements, and storage systems for the Apprenticeship Lab.	approved	\$100,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Repairs and Maintenance	Site 1	Sidewalk/Curb Replacement	Sidewalk/curb replacement on Wausau Campus.	15 years	\$100,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Agriculture Center of Excellence	Repairs and Maintenance	Site 1	Cleanout/Dredge Pond	Erosion control and retention pond life cycle improvements.	15 years	\$80,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	New Square Footage	Site 1	Student Engagement Vestibule Addition	Accessibility to the GrowPod, greenhouse, and outdoor gardens for the Garden to Market program.	15 years	\$75,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Equipment	Site 1	Cafeteria Table Replacement	Life cycle replacement	5 years	\$60,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Equipment	Site 1	EMS Furniture	Life cycle replacement	5 years	\$60,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Facilities	Wausau Campus	Equipment	Site 1	Custodial Equipment	Life cycle replacement	5 years	\$50,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025

2024-2025 Capital Equipment Budget Request (Items \$50,000 or more)

Division	Descprition	Borrowing Category (Equipment, New Square Footage, Remodeling and Improvements, Repails and	Site (District-Wide; Site 1 = Wausau and Ag Center of Excellence; Site 2 = Antigo, Merrill, and Wittenberg;	Item Requested	Impact (FTE, Headcount, Location, Program, etc.)	Depreciable Life	Cost	Estimated start date	Estimated end date	Estimated date all proceeds spent
Learning	Agriculture Center of Excellence	Equipment	Site 1	Industry 4.0 - Ag + Transportation CNG at Diesel	Various learning equipment to support Industry 4.0 - Ag + Transportation CNG	5 years	\$700,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Entire District	Equipment	Entire District	Artificial Intelligence	Various learning equipment needs to support College-wide AI initiative	5 years	\$200,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Wausau Campus	Equipment	Site 1	SimMan with Artificial Lung	SimMan manikin with ASL Lung solution for breathing simulation	5 years	\$125,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Entire District	Equipment	Entire District	Annual Contingency	Learning projects require contingency funding as project needs arise	N/A	\$125,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Merrill Campus	Equipment	Site 2	Used Semi Tractor	With the expansion of the CDL program, we will need to continue to purchase more tractors to meet the need of our industry and students	5 years	\$100,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Entire District	Equipment	Entire District	Industry 4.0 - Smart Manufacturing Equipment	Various learning equipment to support Industry 4.0 - Smart Manufacturing	5 years	\$100,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Antigo Campus	Equipment	Site 2	Continued support for our Sawmill development.	Various learning equipment to support Sawmill Addition	5 years	\$100,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Agriculture Center of Excellence	Equipment	Site 1	Backhoe	The current backhoe is a 2001 model, and is reaching the end of life	Approved	\$90,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Wausau Campus	Equipment	Site 1	Dental Operatory Chairs (4)	Dental chairs for dental clinic that need to be replaced.	5 years	\$81,600	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Wausau Campus	Equipment	Site 1	Miller Welding Agreement	Leasing of new welding equipment that allows NTC's welding lab to stay on the cutting edge of welding equipment and in line with industry standards	5 years	\$76,626	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Wausau Campus	Equipment	Site 1	Invasive Ventilators (2)	Ventilators utilized within local healthcare systems	5 years	\$60,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Wausau Campus	Equipment	Site 1	C-Tech Lab Rolling Benches for Millwright lab	Updated learning space would require an update work area to preform labs and provide additional storage space	5 years	\$54,558	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Wausau Campus	Equipment	Site 1	Lifecast Sim Manikins	Family Pack (Adult Male & Geriatric Adult Female, Child, Toddler, Infant), Echo Sounds Stethoscope (with realtiPro). These are mid fidelity life like simulation manikins. These manikins will replace our old Ares and will provide increased realism in our patient care	5 years	\$50,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025
Learning	Merrill Campus	Equipment	Site 2	Donor Building in Merrill	Various learning equipment needs to support new Donor Building	5 years	\$50,000	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	6/30/2025

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Lease: Medford Campus from NTC Property Foundation, Inc.

POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers – (2) Buildings and Equipment. (a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

TCS 5.04 (3) (a) A resolution of the district board approving the lease contingent upon WTCS board Approval, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the lease.

INTERPRETATION: Purchasing or leasing suitable land and buildings requires board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: Northcentral Technical College (NTC) original lease agreement with Progressive Ave, LLC, in Medford, Wisconsin expired in June 2023. The college has been occupying the current property under lease extensions while the NTC Property Foundation purchased the facility. This 12,470 sq. ft. leased facility was built and designed specifically for NTC's Medford Campus serving Taylor County and surrounding areas. The lease will be a ten-year lease at a cost of \$192,000 per year. The lease will commence on the first day of June 2024, and terminate on the last day of May 2034. The college will be asking the WTCS State Board for approval of the lease at its May Board meeting. The board is asking the WTCS to approve the proposed lease. A packet evidencing compliance with the statutes will be submitted to the state board with this request.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

- Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board approves the Medford Campus Lease to the NTC Property Foundation and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: 

Dated: March 12, 2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Addition: Antigo – Merrill CDL Truck Training Center Addition

POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers – (2) Buildings and Equipment. (a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

TCS 5.04 (2) (a) A resolution of the district board approving the additional or new facilities, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the additional or new facilities.

INTERPRETATION: Addition of new facilities requires Board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: Northcentral Technical College is set to enhance its Transportation 4.0 initiative at the Merrill CDL Truck Training Center with a strategic 3,448 square foot addition. This addition, capped at a cost not exceeding \$500,000, will include two full semi-truck trailer bays to meet the evolving demands of contemporary trucking education. The new addition will allow more space to conduct indoor truck maintenance and pre-trip inspections during inclement weather, ensuring optimal learning conditions for our staff and students. This forward-looking project aims to provide students with cutting-edge facilities and training opportunities, ensuring they are well-equipped for the challenges and innovations within the ever-evolving landscape of the transportation sector. In order to begin construction this summer, the College will be asking the WTCS State Board for approval of this project at its May Board meeting. The Board is asked to approve the proposed addition and request the WTCS State Board to do the same. A packet evidencing compliance with statutes will be submitted to the State Board with the application.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

- Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board approves the Merrill CDL Truck Training Center Addition at a cost not to exceed \$500,000 and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: 

Dated: March 12, 2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Addition: Wausau – Diesel Training Center Addition

POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers – (2) Buildings and Equipment. (a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

TCS 5.04 (2) (a) A resolution of the district board approving the additional or new facilities, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the additional or new facilities.

INTERPRETATION: Addition of new facilities requires Board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: As part of our Transportation 4.0 Initiative, this project involves expanding our training facilities to incorporate Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) training. This includes the construction of a 1,500 square foot semi-truck bay addition onto our existing Diesel Truck Training Center at a cost not to exceed \$400,000. The addition of the new bay will allow the repurposing of an existing bay to serve as a specialized CNG Truck Training Bay, aligning our programs with the increasing prevalence of CNG-powered vehicles. To enhance the overall learning environment, the project includes a substantial upgrade to the HVAC system, ensuring optimal conditions for staff and student comfort, as well as conforming with strict requirements for servicing CNG powered vehicles. This comprehensive initiative positions us at the forefront of transportation education, equipping our students with essential skills for the evolving industry while emphasizing sustainability and innovation in the era of Transportation 4.0. In order to begin construction this summer, the College will be asking the WTCS State Board for approval of this project at its May Board meeting. The Board is asked to approve the proposed addition and request the WTCS State Board to do the same. A packet evidencing compliance with statutes will be submitted to the State Board with the application.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

- Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board approves the Diesel Truck Training Center Addition at a cost not to exceed \$400,000 and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: 

Dated: March 12, 2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Remodeling: Wausau – CHS Dental Clinic Renovation

POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers – (2) Buildings and Equipment. (a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

TCS 5.04 (4) (a) A resolution of the district board approving the remodeling of existing facilities, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the remodeling.

INTERPRETATION: Remodeling of existing facilities requires Board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: The CHS Dental Clinic Renovation Project aims to enhance and expand the facility by renovating approximately 1,800 square feet of the existing dental clinic. This renovation aligns with the Dental Therapy Addition and expansion of dental hygienist and dental assistance programs, as supported by the passing of legislative bill AB 667/SB 702. The project is budgeted not to exceed \$265,000, supporting the clinic's commitment to providing quality oral health care education and services. The key modifications include transforming the lobby and reception area to accommodate more patients, ensuring patient confidentiality, and increasing security. The project also involves increasing locker room capacity for additional students and program offerings, as well as relocating faculty offices from the 4th floor to the 1st floor. Two private offices will also be added for the on-site dentist and dental therapist. In order to begin construction in June, the College will be requesting WTCS State Board approval at its May Board Meeting. The NTC Board is asked to approve the proposed renovation and request the WTCS State Board to do the same. A packet evidencing compliance with the statutes will be submitted to the State Board with the application.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board Approves the Wausau CHS Dental Clinic Renovation at a cost not to exceed \$265,000 and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: Dr. Jeanie Worden Dated: 3/12/2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Addition: Wausau – CHS Dental Therapy Addition

POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers – (2) Buildings and Equipment. (a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

TCS 5.04 (2) (a) A resolution of the district board approving the additional or new facilities, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the additional or new facilities.

INTERPRETATION: Addition of new facilities requires Board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is set to embark on a transformative project with the construction of a Dental Therapy Addition, thanks to the recent passage of bill AB 668/SB 689 that allocates \$2.0 million in funding to NTC. The initiative aims to expand the current dental hygienist and dental assistance programs, introducing a cutting-edge dental therapy program to tackle oral health issues and enhance access to dental care. Graduates from this innovative program will be eligible for licensure as dental therapists. This project, not to exceed \$1 million (\$800,000 from state appropriations and \$200,000 in FY2024-25 borrowings) will encompass a 1,525-square-foot addition featuring a new vestibule and eight state-of-the-art dental operatories. This expansion not only increases capacity in existing dental programs but also introduces new offerings in dental therapy and Expanded Functions Dental Assisting (EFDA), further positioning NTC as a leader in comprehensive oral healthcare education. In order to begin construction this summer and have the dollars expended by June 2025, the College will be asking the WTCS State Board for approval of this project at its May Board meeting. The Board is asked to approve the proposed addition and request the WTCS State Board to do the same. A packet evidencing compliance with statutes will be submitted to the State Board with the application.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

- Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board approves the CHS Dental Therapy Addition at a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000 (\$800,000 from state appropriations and \$200,000 in FY2024-25 borrowings) and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: 

Dated: March 12, 2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Remodeling: Wausau – Workforce Training & Professional Development Renovation

POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers – (2) Buildings and Equipment. (a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

TCS 5.04 (4) (a) A resolution of the district board approving the remodeling of existing facilities, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the remodeling.

INTERPRETATION: Remodeling of existing facilities requires Board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: This project involves the transformation of three conventional classrooms located in the A building into state-of-the-art high-tech training rooms dedicated to Workforce Training and Professional Development. The 2,033 square foot renovation plan encompasses the creation of two 40-capacity training classrooms, featuring a movable partition wall that can be opened to merge into a single 80-capacity classroom when needed. Additionally, a dedicated furniture storage room will be incorporated, providing flexibility for various room setups in the newly designed training spaces, enhancing the overall adaptability and functionality of the facility. The budget for this renovation is set not to exceed \$200,000. In order to begin construction in June, the College will be requesting WTCS State Board approval at its May Board Meeting. The NTC Board is asked to approve the proposed renovation and request the WTCS State Board to do the same. A packet evidencing compliance with the statutes will be submitted to the State Board with the application.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board Approves the Wausau Workforce Training & Professional Development Renovation at a cost not to exceed \$200,000 and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: Dr. Joanne Worden Dated: 3/12/2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Remodeling: Wausau – D Building Renovation

POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers – (2) Buildings and Equipment. (a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

TCS 5.04 (4) (a) A resolution of the district board approving the remodeling of existing facilities, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the remodeling.

INTERPRETATION: Remodeling of existing facilities requires Board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: The D Building Renovation will reopen the corridor from the information desk to the Criminal Justice training area, providing direct access to single-use bathrooms without entering the Den or Student Life. The 4,600 square foot renovation includes reconfiguring a part of Student Life to incorporate new offices, expand Timberwolf Tables, and establish a Student Resource Center. Additionally, the project involves repurposing the old Criminal Justice office suite into three spacious classrooms, four small collaboration rooms, and a storage room. The overall budget for the project is set not to exceed \$475,000. In order to begin construction this summer, the College will be requesting WTCS State Board approval at its May Board Meeting. The NTC Board is asked to approve the proposed renovation and request the WTCS State Board to do the same. A packet evidencing compliance with the statutes will be submitted to the State Board with the application.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board Approves the D Building Renovation at a cost not to exceed \$475,000 and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: Dr. Jeanie Worden Dated: 3/12/2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Addition: Wausau – Emergency Services Training Center Addition

POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers – (2) Buildings and Equipment. (a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

TCS 5.04 (2) (a) A resolution of the district board approving the additional or new facilities, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the additional or new facilities.

INTERPRETATION: Addition of new facilities requires Board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: The Emergency Services Training Center Addition is a 2,700 square foot expansion of the building to coincide with the development of the Marathon County Regional Forensic Science Center (RFSC). This new space aims to foster cross-collaboration in educational training between Northcentral Technical College (NTC) and the RFSC. The addition will feature state-of-the-art training rooms equipped with high-tech resources, facilitating remote access to and from the college. Additionally, the facility will include an apparatus bay dedicated to storing and training on ambulances and the ambulance simulator. The budget for this expansion is not to exceed \$600,000, ensuring a cost-effective enhancement to the Emergency Services Training Center. In order to begin construction this summer, the College will be asking the WTCS State Board for approval of this project at its May Board meeting. The Board is asked to approve the proposed addition and request the WTCS State Board to do the same. A packet evidencing compliance with statutes will be submitted to the State Board with the application.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

- Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board approves the Emergency Services Training Center Addition at a cost not to exceed \$600,000 and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: 

Dated: March 12, 2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Addition: Wausau – Ag Center Vestibule Addition

POLICY: Wisconsin Statute 38 – Technical College System, 38.14 District Board Powers – (2) Buildings and Equipment. (a) For the use of the district schools the district board may: (3) Construct, enlarge, or improve buildings.

TCS 5.04 (2) (a) A resolution of the district board approving the additional or new facilities, (b) A resolution of the district board requesting board (WTCS) approval of the additional or new facilities.

INTERPRETATION: Addition of new facilities requires Board approval.

DATA/RESULTS: The Ag Center Student Vestibule Addition will add a 100 square foot vestibule and sidewalks to the south side of the Student Engagement Center. The extension aims to create a secure and efficient passage for students, staff, and visitors traveling between the Student Engagement Center, the grow pod, and the greenhouse. Additionally, the vestibule will serve as an airgap, capturing insects and reducing heat and air conditioning loss during extreme temperatures. With a budget not exceeding \$75,000, this proposal aligns with our commitment to safety and sustainability. This addition will significantly enhance the overall functionality of the Student Engagement Center while providing easier access by the Garden to Market program. In order to begin construction this summer, the College will be asking the WTCS State Board for approval of this project at its May Board meeting. The Board is asked to approve the proposed addition and request the WTCS State Board to do the same. A packet evidencing compliance with statutes will be submitted to the State Board with the application.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

- Regular Voting Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northcentral Technical College Board approves the Ag Center Vestibule Addition at a cost not to exceed \$75,000 and requests the WTCS State Board to do the same.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: 

Dated: March 12, 2024



Board Agenda and Meetings

Board Policy 2.9

Notification

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Board meetings are public meetings and open to the public in accordance with Chapter 19, Wis. Stats. Every public notice of a Board meeting shall set for the time, date, place and subject matter of the meeting, including that intended for consideration at a contemplated closed session per Wis. Stat. sec. 19.84(2), as amended.

Agenda

The Board shall assume and exercise responsibility for oversight of Board planning and agenda setting. Accordingly, each member of the Board shall have an opportunity to identify issues to be considered on the Board agenda. The Chairperson shall work with the President and Executive Assistant to the President to prepare and disseminate the agenda.

- Consent Voting Agenda
 - Consent items are those which usually do not require discussion or explanation prior to board action, are non-controversial and/or similar in content, or are those items which have already been discussed and/or explained and do not require further discussion or explanation. Such agenda items might include, but are not limited to approval of previous minutes, approval of bills, approval of reports, etc.
 - Any Member can have an item removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration by timely request of the Chairperson. A request is timely if made prior to the vote on the consent agenda. The request does not require a second or a vote by the Board. An item removed from the consent agenda will then be discussed and acted on separately immediately following the consideration of the consent agenda.
 - The remainder of the consent agenda can be voted on with one vote, omitting the challenged items.
- The College Vision, Mission, Community Benefit Statements, Core Beliefs/Values, and Strategic Directions will be reviewed annually.
- Subjects for major policy issues to be discussed and acted upon by the Board will be developed on an annual basis.

Meetings

The regular meetings of the Board shall be held monthly (no meeting is held in November), subject to change by call of the Chairperson with the approval of the Board. Proper notification of all Board meetings shall be given to the public and the news media as required by the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. Based upon Wisconsin Statutes, all regular and special meetings of the Board shall be open to the public, with the exception of closed sessions.

The Board will conduct an annual organizational meeting on the second Monday of July for the purpose of administering the Oath of Office to newly elected Board Members, election of Board Officers, and approval of meeting dates. (Wis. Stat. sec. 38.08(3), as amended)

Unless suspended or waived, the rules of parliamentary procedure according to the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern those proceedings to which they are applicable.

All committee, regular, and closed session meetings will be accessible to members via virtual or phone options; however, Board members are encouraged to attend meetings in-person unless the member is prevented from physically attending due to personal illness or disability; employment or family conflicts; or weather-related emergencies.

Public Comment

An opportunity for public input, called Public Comment, shall be available at each Board meeting. Public Comment periods are not considered to be public hearings or a forum for public debate. Certain ground rules will be followed regarding the Public Comment at Board meetings. These ground rules are meant to protect all citizens so that the work of the Board serves everyone, not only those able to attend the meeting:

- The total amount of time devoted to public comment at any given meeting will not exceed thirty (30) minutes with three (3) minutes per registered individual unless extended by a majority vote of the Board.
- Individuals who wish to address the Board must sign-in with the Executive Assistant to the President + Board, using the provided form twenty-four (24) hours but no less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the meeting.
- Only individuals signed-in to offer public comment will be invited by the Chairperson to speak. All speakers will be required to identify themselves prior to their commentary.
- Each person will be limited to three (3) minutes and may only speak once during the public comment period. No speaker may donate his or her time to another speaker.
- If the speaker has handouts, ten (10) copies are required.
- Individuals should not expect to engage in dialogue or discussion with members of the Board on any matters raised during the public comment period as Board meetings are for the purpose of carrying out the business of the District and board members have no obligation to respond to statements made. Concerns raised may not be addressed at today's meeting unless they fall under an already approved agenda topic.
- Individuals recognized to speak by the Chairperson may not engage in debate or dialogue with any other person at the meeting.
- The Board will not act or comment on any matters raised in the Public Comment period that are not otherwise noticed on the agenda for a decision.
- Comments shall be respectful and courteous. Comments which do not conform to those requirements including those that are personal, threatening, attack others, are obscene or insulting, berate opposing points of view, or are properly subject to Closed Session, such as those relating to personnel matters, will not be allowed. Offending commentators or those who are disruptive will be ruled out of order by the Chairperson and shall immediately stop speaking as directed by the Chairperson. Such individuals may be required to leave the meeting.

The Chairperson will determine any follow-up needed to public commentary including, but not limited to, referring matters to the President, or suggesting a future agenda item.

Unless requested by the Chairperson from the audience, regarding a specific agenda topic, Public Comment is not allowed during other portions of the Board meeting. Meeting interruptions or other disruptive behavior by attendees may require the assistance of Campus Security or law enforcement, if necessary, and at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Closed Session

The Board may also meet in Closed Session in accordance with Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1), as amended. Closed Sessions can be before, after, or anytime during a regular meeting provided proper legal notice is given. Closed Sessions are called by the Chairperson and approved by a majority of the Board for discussion pertaining to areas provided in Wisconsin Statutes. When final action is taken in proper Closed Session, the resolution and result of the vote must be made available for public inspection.

Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Board, but a smaller number may adjourn a meeting. Board members should be aware of, and avoid walking quorums. A walking quorum is a series of meetings, telephone conferences, electronic communication, or some other means of communication by a number of Board members who come into an agreement regarding College business that collectively would constitute a quorum. Features such as 'reply all' and 'forward' may provide the information instantly to the number of Board members to be considered a quorum and thus violating Open Meetings Law. To avoid unintentionally creating a walking quorum, Board members should refrain from engaging in substantive discussion or coming to agreement on a uniform course of action among separate groups of members.

Minutes

The President, under the direction of the Secretary of the Board, shall keep, or cause to be kept by the Executive Assistant to the President, complete records of all actions (motions and resolutions) of the Board meetings through the minutes. In accordance with Wis. Stat. sec. 38.12(4), the minutes of the Board meeting shall be published in the *Wausau Daily Herald* and on the NTC website within forty-five (45) days after the meeting.

The minutes of a meeting shall be sent to the members of the Board before the meeting at which they are to be approved. Corrections to the minutes may be made at the meeting at which they are to be approved.

Created and Reviewed on 03/07/2023
Reviewed and Approved on 04/04/2023
Reviewed on 02/06/2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) Advanced Technical Certificate

POLICY: Community Benefit Statement 2
Employers have an available and skilled workforce.

DATA/RESULTS:

Wisconsin Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) certification permits the holder to perform the following activities as delegated and supervised by a dentist: (a) Placement and finishing of restoration material after the dentist prepares a tooth for restoration; (b) Application of sealants; (c) Coronal polishing; (d) Impressions; (e) Temporizations; (f) Packing cord; (g) Removal of cement from crowns; (h) Adjustment of dentures and other removable oral appliances; (i) Removal of sutures and dressings; and, (k) Application of topical fluoride, fluoride varnish, or similar dental topical agent.

As a prerequisite to program enrollment, an applicant must have one of the following:

- a) Completion of at least 1,000 hours practicing as a dental assistant and holds the certified dental assistant credential issued by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc., or its successor.
- b) Completion of at least 2,000 hours practicing as a dental assistant, as verified by the supervising licensed dentist.

EFDA graduates, as members of a team of oral health professionals, work to evaluate, treat and manage patients of all ages in dental office settings. In addition to performing dental assistant duties, the scope of practice for Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary includes, but is not limited to:

- Performing preventative procedures
- Performing restorative procedures
- Performing prosthodontic procedures

NTC conducted a formal survey of in-district employers in February of 2024. Nine out of 27 in-district employers responded. Seven out of the nine responded that they have seen an increase in dental care/caseload over the last 4 years. Reasons given for increased caseloads include: less providers in the area, adding new locations and dentist retirements. Five responded that they have experienced difficulty finding individuals for providing dental care services. One respondent commented, "Very hard to find trained, hardworking assistants". Respondents projected 100 EFDA job openings over the next 5 years.

The College wishes to submit the Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary program concept review and program approval documents to the Wisconsin Technical College System Office for consideration as part of the WTCS Occupational Program Approval Process. By approving the submission of the program proposal, the College will continue to the next step in the process for developing this as a WTCS approved program.

AGENDA CATEGORY:

PROPOSED MOTION:

✓ **Consent Agenda** Approval of program proposal of the Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary program

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed Dr. Janis Worden Dated 3/12/2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Receipts & Expenditures

POLICY 1.1 – Presidential Expectations – The President, in execution of his/her duties, shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance which is either irresponsible or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics, or that results in failure to be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

INTERPRETATION: To avoid *violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics* NTC will follow Wisconsin statute 38.12 **District Board Duties (2)** “...All expenditures exceeding \$2500 shall be approved by the district board.” Also, in compliance with Wisconsin statute 38.12(4) District board duties, “The publication proceedings shall include a statement of receipts and expenditures in the aggregate.”

DATA/RESULTS: The following Status of Funds listing receipts and expenditures including operating transfers in the aggregate is included for informational purposes as of **January 31, 2024** (preliminary).

F1-F7 Revenue: \$65,706,123.28

F1-F7 Expense: \$50,204,697.27

AGENDA CATEGORY:

Consent Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

(Motion is included with consent agenda.)

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed: 

Dated: March 12, 2024

**NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOPIC SUMMARY SHEET**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

TOPIC: Personnel Changes

POLICY 1.1 – Presidential Expectations – The President, in execution of his/her duties, shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision or organizational circumstance which is either irresponsible or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics, or that results in failure to be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

INTERPRETATION: NTC will follow Wisconsin Statute 38.12 (3) "The district board shall employ and fix the compensation..." and Wisconsin Statute 118.22 (2) "...No teacher may be employed... except by a majority vote of the full membership of the board. Nothing in this section prevents the modification or termination of a contract by mutual agreement of the teacher and the board."

DATA/RESULTS: A request is made to approve the following personnel changes:

New Hires:

- Ben Olson – Faculty, Respiratory Therapy
- Mason Heldt – Learning Manager, Health Sciences & Community Services
- Samantha Wolf – Instructional Assistant, Nursing
- Rob Halverson – Maintenance, Plumbing & HVAC

Resignations:

- Christian Firnstahl – Human Resources Generalist
- Patricia Hornung – Administrative Assistant, Health Sciences & Community Services
- Chelsea Pontzloff – Assistant, Central Services
- Archie Becher – Coordinator, Engineering Technology

Retirements:

AGENDA CATEGORY:

Consent Agenda

PROPOSED MOTION:

(Motion is included with consent agenda.)

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY: I, your CEO, certify that the information contained in this report is true as of this date.

Signed Dr. Janis Worden

Dated 3/12/2024

Project	Plan	Obligations & Actuals	Remaining Balance	% Complete	Notes
PROJ00000002 CHS HVAC Upgrades	465,743.42	336,766.36	128,977.06	72%	
PROJ00000006 Consulting	361,907.11	253,000.00	108,907.11	70%	
PROJ00000008 Data Cabling	59,292.33	39,046.61	20,245.72	66%	
PROJ000000104 Health Occupations Industry 4.0	1,838,049.35	1,454,274.21	383,775.14	79%	
PROJ00000015 Industry 4.0	220,196.50	51,414.95	168,781.55	23%	
PROJ00000016 Lighting Upgrade to LED	73,289.63	32,189.48	41,100.15	44%	
PROJ00000020 NTC Connect	115,839.90	99,016.80	16,823.10	85%	
PROJ00000021 PC Replacement	231,806.25	222,136.45	9,669.80	96%	
PROJ00000023 PeopleSoft Upgrades	168,279.66	107,752.26	60,527.40	64%	
PROJ00000026 Security Cameras & Equipment	99,481.61	39,748.97	59,732.64	40%	
PROJ00000027 Servers	524,779.02	344,134.28	180,644.74	66%	
PROJ00000028 Sidewalk/Curb Replacement	18,268.00	18,268.00	-	100%	
PROJ00000029 Software	1,940,957.35	1,917,269.29	23,688.06	99%	
PROJ00000030 WAN Leases	158,288.86	98,461.99	59,826.87	62%	
PROJ00000034 VetTech Lab/Classroom Renovation	17,939.79	17,939.79	-	100%	
PROJ00000036 Wood Saw Filing	148,039.02	56,480.00	91,559.02	38%	
PROJ00000037 Workday	4,245,276.00	4,172,613.53	72,662.47	98%	
PROJ00000038 Virtual Learning Lab Software	197,506.25	116,084.12	81,422.13	59%	
PROJ00000040 User Experience	218,827.47	215,084.44	3,743.03	98%	
PROJ00000041 Merrill Lot Improvements	405,957.93	117,567.23	288,390.70	29%	
PROJ00000042 Library	51,665.98	15,758.00	35,907.98	30%	
PROJ00000074 Miller Welding Agreement	69,333.14	43,791.30	25,541.84	63%	
PROJ00000075 Motorcycle Safety Capital	115,642.74	-	115,642.74	0%	
PROJ00000078 A241 Counseling Lab Renovation	5,849.67	5,849.67	-	100%	
PROJ00000079 Blacktop Resurfacing	37,447.00	37,447.00	-	100%	
PROJ00000082 Corridor Carpet Replacement	84,620.68	51,345.46	33,275.22	61%	
PROJ00000084 Protective Shatterproof Entry Glass	13,235.00	1,175.00	12,060.00	9%	
PROJ00000086 Industry 4.0 AI	296,823.00	141,449.88	155,373.12	48%	
PROJ00000088 Feed Storage Building/Canopy	12,560.50	12,560.50	-	100%	
PROJ00000090 SEC Electrical & Gas Service	85,000.00	79,856.58	5,143.42	94%	
PROJ00000091 Storage/Machine Building	530.00	-	530.00	0%	
PROJ00000092 Exterior Brick Façade Replacement	40,000.00	-	40,000.00	0%	
PROJ00000097 Communication Technology Center/Studio 7	107,152.05	107,096.60	55.45	100%	
PROJ00000101 Workforce Training Classrooms - A Building	246,261.36	246,261.36	-	100%	
PROJ00000102 General Facilities Projects	118,087.63	104,188.84	13,898.79	88%	
PROJ00000103 Clark Island	65,000.00	-	65,000.00	0%	
PROJ00000104 Grow Pod	2,362.05	2,362.05	-	100%	
PROJ00000105 Sawmill	510,000.00	115,873.00	394,127.00	23%	
PROJ00000107 Ag Center Offices	1,391.03	1,391.03	-	100%	
PROJ00000109 WTPD Staff Offices	3,806.80	3,806.80	-	100%	
PROJ00000111 Head Saw Simulator (Emberg)	39,350.00	39,350.00	-	100%	
PROJ00000115 Pasture to Plate (Meat Talent)	314,360.01	80,656.41	233,703.60	26%	
PROJ00000116 Vet Tech Lab Equipment	62,688.11	62,688.11	-	100%	
PROJ00000118 CNA Mobile Lab	340,000.00	314,620.00	25,380.00	93%	
PROJ00000119 Ag Center Fencing	8,936.98	8,936.98	-	100%	
PROJ00000120 Hoop House w/Robotics	97,702.20	97,522.94	179.26	100%	
PROJ00000122 Massage Therapy	201,000.00	181,775.77	19,224.23	90%	
PROJ00000123 Emergency Services Training Center	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	0%	
PROJ00000124 Control Tower Overhang Infill Classroom	200,000.00	-	200,000.00	0%	
PROJ00000125 General Learning Projects	1,498,346.12	1,147,593.60	350,752.52	77%	
PROJ00000126 Industry 4.0 Smart Manufacturing for Regionals	150,000.00	-	150,000.00	0%	
PROJ00000130 Internal Signage	8,535.00	8,535.00	-	100%	
PROJ00000131 Wood Walls	28,971.30	28,971.30	-	100%	
PROJ00000132 Phillips Condensing Unit	-	24,688.52	(24,688.52)		Pending Insurance Claim
PROJ00000135 NTC Kiln Project (Emberg)	42,000.00	-	42,000.00	0%	
PROJ00000137 WTPD Expo Setup	10,000.00	714.81	9,285.19	7%	
PROJ00000138 Sustainability	250,000.00	36,252.42	213,747.58	15%	
PROJ00000140 Fleet Vehicles	60,000.00	54,046.50	5,953.50	90%	
PROJ00000142 DMI Strategic Defense of Public Facing Infrastructure Project	6,000.00	6,000.00	-	100%	
PROJ00000143 Finance & IT Remodel	40,000.00	36,597.00	3,403.00	91%	
PROJ00000144 Merrill CDL Addition	500,000.00	526.05	499,473.95	0%	
PROJ00000145 NTC Expo Booth	20,000.00	18,332.00	1,668.00	92%	
PROJ00000146 Facilities Project Wages	66,335.08	66,148.32	186.76	100%	
PROJ00000147 Program Evaluation Software & Implementation	91,195.00	91,195.00	-	100%	
Total	17,674,946.07	12,984,612.56	4,690,333.51		

Culinary Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/24/2023

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Spoons

Attendees

Industry Members:

- Carlie Peterson – Granite Peak Ski Area
- Liz Moens - Culver's of Wausau; Owner/Operator
- Olivia Telschow – Helene's Hilltop Orchard; Owner & Advisory Committee Chairperson
- Josh Heerts – Wausau Country Club; Executive Chef

NTC Team:

- Lisa Peterson – Associate Dean, School of Business
- Brock Decker – Faculty, Culinary Arts
- Travis Teska – Faculty, Culinary Arts
- Valerie Becker – Administrative Assistant, School of Business
- Yang Yee Xiong- Student Success Advisor

Welcome

- **Olivia Telschow – Helene's Hilltop Orchard; Owner & Advisory Committee Chairperson** -Welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Update and highlights from last Meeting (04.11.23)

- Minutes from the previous meeting and opportunity for edits were made available.

Industry Discussion

- **Olivia Telschow** – The cost of ingredients has started to even out whereas initially post-Covid costs were very high. The availability of raw ingredients has been much better but they still struggle with the availability of paper products. Like all industries, employment costs are now their main concern. They have really focused on waste reduction and efficiency in efforts to tackle this challenge. They also address labor costs by working on retention by keeping employees enthused about their jobs and offering a family/work balance with a 36-hour work week. Fulltime employees get 15 days of vacation to use each year, just not in the fall. A few years ago, Chef Jon Reinke (NTC faculty) recommended letting behind the house employees listen to ear buds while they work and this made a positive difference for employees.
 - This year they starting use the scheduling application, 7 Shifts, that has been working very well. With this app they can create schedules, send message to employees, create new shifts, request time off, onboard new employees, and create training videos. This app costs anywhere from \$3-\$69 per month depending on what your business uses it for. You can also link this app to your point of sale (POS) system and it will give you real time labor costs so you can decide if you want to cut shifts and you can see what departments are costing more than what's being produced. The employees also like this app because they see exactly how much money they make on a given day. This has also helped alleviate missed punches from the staff, however, employees must still punch in at a time clock to ensure they are ready to start work once they arrive.
- **Carlie Peterson – Granite Peak Ski Area; Chef** – Carlie's utilized two students from the Culinary Bootcamp that Chef Jon ran over the summer in the kitchen that they were previously running. It was nice to see these young workers come to the kitchen and perform skills most kids their age are not allowed to do. Carlie hopes to see the program continue in the future because it was definitely beneficial and it would have been great for some of the other employees that they hired to have gone

through this bootcamp. In the future, it may not need to be quite as long, possibly only 3-5 days where employees learn new skills, test, and get certified on it all in the same day.

- **Lisa Peterson – NTC Associate Dean, School of Business** – This is great feedback and might be worth discussing a shortened version of this bootcamp with NTC's Workforce Training and Development division.
- **Liz Moens - Culver's of Wausau; Owner/Operator** - They are experiencing considerable challenges with their food supplier (GFS), mainly related to delivery logistics, which is attributed to the supplier's staffing and training issues. GFS is their only options for suppliers at this time. The availability of paper products is also significant pain point for them along with the quality of produce, which is often being either short-dated or subpar in quality. This struggle has a notable impact on waste although they sometimes receive reimbursements for these issues.
 - They continue to struggle with understanding and motivating younger generations and retaining employees remains a difficulty. They're trying innovative approaches, like using QR codes for recruitment. They have a solid core team and encounter recurring issues with younger employees. However, there has been a positive trend of hardworking and dedicated young individuals recently, though they remain somewhat rare. They've made the application process easier, allowing applicants to apply with minimal information such as their name, address, phone number, and the hours and position they are looking for. While this approach allows applicants to lack initiative, it has proven effective and streamlined the process but it does require experienced interviewers to ask the right questions.
 - They also want to send out an employee satisfaction survey this year and get feedback regarding the top 3 things that motivate their employees, the top 3 thing that make employees enjoy working there as well as the opposite. This can help to ensure they are not missing anything from a retention standpoint.
 - **Olivia Telschow** – Helene's went to a very similar hiring and interview process; however, their application includes a 30 second selfie video from the applicant. This allows them to see how applicants are presenting themselves such as their dress code, enthusiasm, and preparation. They use a separate app for this process called Reg Fox.
- **Liz Moens - Liz is on the State Board for the Restaurant Association and brought up the topic of same-day pay, which was discussed at a recent meeting. This is seen as a significant retention strategy gaining traction in the industry. It operates through a payroll processor, ensuring accurate recording of hours worked and payments are loaded onto a card. While it may be slightly more costly, it's becoming a prominent tool for retaining employees in the restaurant sector.**
 - **Charlie Peterson** – Sometimes waiting two weeks for a paycheck just does not work for a lot of people for various reasons. There are many reasons why people cannot make a paycheck last two weeks and it's not always because they are bad with money.
 - **Travis Teska** – Same day pay could add additional costly expenses to the business as they will encounter additional processing fees.
 - **Liz Moens** – Many businesses are seeing this as a retention piece. It may cost more but they are willing to pay extra for better retention which results in lower training costs.
- **Olivia Telschow** – Credit card fees have also been an issue this year and eighty percent of their customers use credit cards and that fee is huge.
 - **Liz Moens** – This is a huge topic for the Restaurant Association and one of their goals for 2024 is to get some movement on the fees themselves as well as getting more competition in the credit card industry. This has caused a lot of independent businesses implementing surcharges or flat fees for credit card usage; however, many businesses are not applying these

charges properly, putting themselves at risk due to the specific rules associated with surcharges. Starting in 2024, Visa will enforce strict compliance with surcharge rules, potentially banning businesses from accepting Visa cards if not followed correctly. Businesses should consult their payment processors to ensure compliance. As a franchise operating across multiple states with varying rules, they don't have the option to implement surcharges. These credit card fees can be significant, although they are lower for debit cards, however, the use of debit cards seems to be declining.

- The Restaurant Association is looking at several key aspects to this issue, including the need for control over fee percentages, as these tend to increase annually. Another significant topic is reimbursement or exemption from charges for the taxes collected on behalf of the states. Currently, businesses are being charged credit card swipe fees on the collected tax, which raises questions about fairness, especially for small business owners. Additionally, there's concern about the lack of competition among major credit card companies like Visa, Mastercard, and American Express. There is a desire to foster a more open market, allowing other companies to enter and succeed, thereby reducing the dominance of these three major players. The specifics of the proposed legislation and the exact wording are still being worked on. Similar discussions are happening in various industries, and the details have not been fully determined yet.
- There is a fundamental difference between credit card fees and other business expenses like insurance. In the case of insurance, businesses have control and can assess and potentially change providers if necessary. They can also take actions to improve safety and reduce costs. However, with credit card fees, businesses lack control. They can't dictate how a guest chooses to pay, which card they use, or the transaction amount. This lack of control is a frustrating challenging for businesses, and is one of the reasons why efforts are being made to bring about changes in this regard.
- **Olivia Telschow** – Business owners from all over the US have seen a significant increase in chargebacks this year, although her business has not.
 - **Liz Moens** – Culvers restaurants have also not seen many chargebacks this year.
- **Josh Herts – Wausau Country Club; Executive Chef** - A significant trend in the industry, particularly concerning employment, is the discrepancy between the salary expectations of potential employees and the skills they bring to the table. There has been a noticeable increase in what individuals can command in terms of pay; however, there seems to be a lack of consensus among companies regarding the value of certain positions, leading to competition for specific skilled employees.
 - At the country club, the primary concern is the significance of cash tips, particularly for servers. Gratuity and tips are processed through their POS system to ensure fair distribution and go directly to the employee's check. However, for those working in the kitchen and other roles that generally receive a share of tips, this system may not be as beneficial as receiving cash directly. In order to attract and retain staff, they've had to offer slightly higher wages compared to other employers. This approach appears more appealing, but there's also a challenge in retaining staff due to the lure of potentially higher cash tips elsewhere. This creates a turnover issue in their staffing.
- **Olivia Telschow** – Asked the other industry members if they have noticed their customers spending less because of the economy.
 - **Josh Herts** – They conducted an interesting study this year by removing weddings from their venue to assess if member spending would increase. However, despite an uptick in member spending, it wasn't enough to compensate for the reduction in larger banquets, leading to tight

budget constraints. The projected increase they anticipated didn't materialize, possibly due to economic factors. Josh also noted a shift in member preferences towards more budget-friendly options like sandwiches, as opposed to premium cuts of meat. This change in focus reflects a shift in how they aim to cater to their clientele.

- **Liz Moens** – They have not seen any changes in consumer spending trends
- **Liz Moens** – Tip credit is another major concern being addressed by the Restaurant Association at both the State and National levels. Some states, like with Washington, have eliminated the tip credit, and this move has had negative consequences. Many restaurants in Washington, DC, have struggled and even had to close because of the shortage of willing workers and this has significantly impacted the industry in that region. Liz emphasized that efforts are underway to address and rectify this situation.

Instructional Area/Program

- **Enrollment Update - Yang Yee Xiong- Student Success Advisor**
 - 12 total students in this fall's new cohort
 - 12 students already accepted for fall 2024 cohort
 - We will continue to accept students for 2024 as they apply as enrollment is on a first come first serve basis.
 - **Lisa Peterson** – At this time we are planning to run two cohorts in Fall 2024; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We should plan on enrolling 14 students for each cohort in case students chose not to enroll at the last minute and so we can ensure full classes.
- **Culinary Arts Update –Brock Decker & Travis Teska**
 - The fall semester started 12 first year students.
 - Due to Covid-related enrollment issues, there are only 3 second year students which makes it difficult to run the Restaurant Operations class effectively. They decided to open the restaurant just one day a week, allowing the students to be challenged while making the workload manageable. They strive to find a balance between giving students practical experience and ensuring they don't feel overwhelmed. They also aim to increase restaurant operations to three days a week in the future when they have more students.
- **Hospitality Management Program Update - Brock Decker**
 - This new 2-year associates degree program launched with 4 students.
 - Brock is finishing up writing the Culinary Arts for Hospitality Management course which includes culinary principles that will allow hospitality managers to evaluate culinary production.
 - We are finalizing the internship class for this program, as well.
- **Pasture to Plate Butchery Program Update - Travis Teska**
 - This new 1-year certificate program also launched this fall with 4 students.
 - Things have been going well so far, however, there have been some challenges, particularly with the Cold Lab not being ready, leading to a shift to using the front kitchen. There was also a setback with the slaughtering trailer, as the person committed to making it backed out. This forced us to combine two classes, Protein Identification 1 and Ethical Harvesting, as some elements couldn't be taught without the necessary facilities.
 - The Cold Lab is expected to be completed in December, while the trailer remains a hurdle.
 - They've organized field trips to expose students to different slaughtering methods.
 - The students recently made several different types of sausages from hogs that they cut up that turned out very well, which is great because these are not culinary students; however, it is important for butchers to know how to cook the meat that they are selling.

- Students have had great flexibility and positive attitudes. He emphasizes his commitment to ensuring students receive a full learning experience, even offering them the chance to audit classes in the future for free.
- Despite the challenges, he is pleased that the students have expressed that they feel they are receiving value for their education.
- **Lisa Peterson** – Our marketing strategy for next fall is to send out a post card advertising the program to FFA club members and area farmers. Mid-State Technical College did this when they launched their similar program, which started with a full program. Right now, tuition is free as the State has about \$2 million available to help fund this tuition.

College-Wide Initiatives

- **Lisa Peterson** - Reviewed the following presentation with the committee:



Advisory%20Committee%20PowerPoint'

Other items

- **Travis Teska** – On Friday, December 1, 2023 the Culinary Arts program is hosting its Shoes for Sous fundraising event. There will be a dinner with Wisconsin pub favorites, drinks, and a meat raffle. An email will be sent out with details. Last year we made enough money to buy all of this year's culinary students a pair of shoes so these students will be volunteering at this year's event.
- **Liz Moens** – The Restaurant Association is also hosting some upcoming events that may appeal to culinary students. There's the Cheers to Hospitality event in Milwaukee and a Restaurant Insight Summit in Green Bay on November 7-8, 2023.

Next meeting schedule & agenda items discussion

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:30pm in Spoons

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Committee



7th December 2023 | 3:00pm to 5:00pm | STEM Center/Zoom

Meeting Attendees

Industry Members:

- Brady Hoes – Loos Machine & Automation, LLC
- Jenna Drengler – Greenheck Fan Corporation
- Greg Mattmiller – Lactalis
- Brandon Rindfleisch – A&B Process Systems Corporation
- Scott Bouchard – Creative Automation, Inc.
- Bill Huebsch – Greenheck Fan Corporation
- Kourtny Vanderploeg – Volm Companies
- Rob Livingston – MP & C
- Mark McKamey – Wausau Supply Company
- Paul Swanborg – Ryan Manufacturing
- Brian Vanden Heuvel – Wausau Tile
- Kourtny Vanderploeg – Volm Companies
- Kevin Woolsey – Crystal Finishing Systems, Inc.
- Morgan Wirkes – Greenheck Fan Corporation
- Brandon Resch – Volm Companies

NTC Team:

- Iain Cameron - Dean
- Ken Parker – Associate Dean
- Dustin Van De Weerd – Program Director and Faculty
- Matt Jacobson – Faculty
- Ben Knospe - Faculty
- Travis Allen – Faculty
- Archie Becher – Coordinator, Engineering Technology Pathways
- Heidi Latendresse – Learning Coordinator
- Brenda Tincher – Administrative Assistant

Welcome

Iain Cameron, Dean of the School of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. This group is currently convening two advisory committees simultaneously. Formerly, NTC maintained separate committees for Electromechanical and Automation Systems advisory, as well as an Applied Engineering Advisory Committee. Recognizing the substantial overlap between these entities, a decision was made to merge the two groups. This strategic merger aims to gather more comprehensive feedback from diverse perspectives, reflecting a broader range of expertise. In this advisory

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Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Committee



7th December 2023 | 3:00pm to 5:00pm | STEM Center/Zoom

committee, NTC aims to provide everyone with an overview of the programs they will be discussing. These include the Electromechanical Technology, Automation Systems Technology, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, and Safety Engineering Technology programs along with the recently launched Smart Manufacturing Technology program. NTC is actively anticipating and encouraging feedback and support from various sources and Iain encouraged the committee to use the contact information on the agenda to reach himself or the team, including instructors Dustin Van De Weerd or Travis Allen, if there are any questions or feedback they wish to share.

Iain also introduced the group to Dr. Ken Parker, Associate Dean of the School of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing. Ken will take over facilitating the Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Committee in future semesters.

Previous Meeting Information and Updates

The previous meeting minutes were distributed in advance for the committee to review. No questions or concerns were raised.

Iain mentioned NTC was exploring adding a robotic curriculum to Applied Engineering but a determination hasn't been made yet. He also mentioned, exploring an Intermediate Quality Certificate. NTC already has a basic Quality Certificate and Quality Industrial Technical diploma. This would bridge the gap between these two areas.

Industry Discussions

It is becoming easier to obtain materials after difficulties in recent years; however, the persistent challenge lies in securing a proficient technical workforce. Companies express a current sense of stability but anticipate a potential deceleration in the future. The prevailing trend among most companies involves considering automation as a strategic avenue for the future, accompanied by the ongoing difficulty of sourcing adequately skilled personnel for operating these machines. Numerous industrial companies are currently implementing ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning Systems). The collective viewpoint within the group suggests that the installation process has proven to be challenging.

The group emphasized the importance of students taking either an interpersonal communication or psychology class. They find that the challenges of generational differences make it difficult for individuals to understand their colleagues. Iain will be looking into this matter.

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Committee



7th December 2023 | 3:00pm to 5:00pm | STEM Center/Zoom

Program and Curriculum Discussion

Iain shared the current enrollment information:

- Electromechanical Technology:
 - 1st semester - 24 students
 - 2nd semester - 4 students
 - 3rd semester - 12 students
 - 4th semester - 6 students
- Automation Systems Technology:
 - 1st semester - 3 students
 - 2nd semester - 2 students
 - 3rd semester - 2 students
 - 4th semester - 2 students
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology – 48 students
- Safety Engineering Technology – 8 students
- Smart Manufacturing technology – 1 student

Program Modifications

Proposed changes for Electromechanical Technology:

1. Remove 'AutoCAD for Technicians' class (10-620-171) as an option from the following programs:
 - Electromechanical Technology (Associate Degree)
 - Industrial Electronics and Maintenance Technician (Technical Diploma)
 - Electrical Maintenance (Certificate)
 - Emerging Technologies (Certificate)
2. Replace the removed class with our 'AutoCAD Electrical' class (10-664-101). There are no credit differences as a result of this change.

The advisory committee unanimously approved the changes as presented.

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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Proposed changes for Automation Systems Technology:

NONE

Proposed changes for Manufacturing Engineering Technology:

NONE

Proposed changes for Safety Engineering Technology:

NONE

Proposed changes for Smart Manufacturing Technology:

NONE

NTC College-Wide Updates

The committee was sent a PowerPoint showing the College-Wide Updates.

- The new programs started in the fall of 2023 included:
 - Hospitality Management Associate Degree
 - Smart Manufacturing Technology Associate Degree
 - QuickBooks Specialist Technical Diploma
 - Therapeutic Massage Technical Diploma
 - Nail Technology Certificate
 - Pasture to Plate Butchery Certificate
- NTC is undergoing a 10-year reaffirmation of the accreditation process and will be evaluated on the following five criteria: Mission, Integrity, Teaching and Learning, Assessment, and Planning. This visit is made up of 3 key parts that directly impact advisory committee members:
 - Written Self-Study
 - An extensive self-evaluation, called the “assurance review,” provides NTC’s written case for reaffirmation of accreditation, and was submitted by NTC’s accreditation team by October 6, 2023.
 - HLC Campus Visit: Nov. 6-7
 - Five HLC review members will visit campus and conduct planned and ad-hoc interviews with a range of stakeholders, including the president, Board of Trustees, deans, VPs, managers, faculty, staff, and students.

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Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Committee



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- Advisory Committee Feedback
 - Your feedback on the ability of NTC to meet the HLC's criteria for evaluation was important to both NTC and the HLC. Your submitted comments were referred to NTC's Accreditation Manager, Adam Sprague.
- All NTC programs have a CIP code that is assigned by the WTCS, each CIP code crosswalks to a list of SOC codes that describe occupations that can be directly tied to a program.
 - CIP – Classification of Instructional Programs
 - Describes a program of study
 - Supports accurate tracking of program completion activities
 - Developed by the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics
 - SOC – Standard Occupational Classification
 - Nation's primary source of occupational information
 - Updated continually by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation
 - Sponsored by the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
- WTPD offers **Professional Development** and **Community Education Classes**. Some topics include:
 - CDL Hazardous Materials
 - AI and Automation: Digital Transformation Series
 - SHRM Certification Prep
 - Putting the Engage Back in Engagement for Community Organizations
 - Ballroom and Social Dance
 - Cooking Classes
- The Student Support Resources available to our students include:
 - Unlimited access to free mental health services through **The Virtual Care Group** (thevirtualcaregroup.com/ntc or 866.533.1827)
 - The **Advising Specialist** can help connect the student with other emergency financial, computer, and community resources
 - **Timberwolf Table**, NTC's food pantry for students
 - **Timberwolf Learning Commons**, with library, tutors, and coaches available
 - Student Scholarships
 - **Student Life** offers several programs, both in-person and remote, to allow students to meet each other, get involved, relax, and have fun.

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Committee



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Any Other Business

NTC has appointed Archie Becher to the role of 'Coordinator, Engineering Technology Pathways'. In this capacity, he will collaborate with high schools, technical colleges, universities, and industry partners. His primary responsibility will involve establishing diverse pathways for individuals aspiring to pursue careers in Engineering Technology. This initiative includes both incoming & current students and those already employed in the industry.

Contact Details –

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Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Video Production Advisory Committee

8th December 2023 | 12:00pm to 1:30pm | STEM Center/Zoom



Meeting Attendees

Industry Members:

- Alex Grant – Thousand Lumens
- Jack Micholic – DCE Junior High School
- Bridget Fargen – WSAW

NTC Team:

- Iain Cameron – Dean, ScEAM
- Dr. Ken Parker – Associate Dean, ScEAM
- Jila Nikpay - Faculty, Video Production
- Jordan Innes– Faculty, Video Production
- Dan McRoberts – Faculty, Communication
- Brenda Tincher – Administrative Assistant, ScEAM

Welcome

Iain Cameron, Dean of the School of Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Iain informed the group that he has assumed leadership of the Video Production Program and then introduced Dr. Ken Parker, Associate Dean, followed by having the group introduce themselves.

Previous Meeting Information and Updates

The previous meeting minutes were distributed in advance for the committee to review. No questions or concerns were raised.

Industry Discussions

The majority of members are experiencing a prosperous year marked by increased business and a level of job applicants. WSAW offers a dedicated website for job applications, recruiters, and collaborations with universities and technical colleges. WSAW just posted for an intern for the spring. Bridget will disseminate the link to committee members. Alex, Thousand Lumens, noted a notable shift toward larger projects with more extensive scopes.

Jack, representing DC Everest Junior High, informed that the district is presently engaged in an Introduction Video Production class, commencing at the Junior High level and extending into High School. Recently, the district earmarked \$500,000 for video boards in both the Junior High and High School. The discussion

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Video Production Advisory Committee

8th December 2023 | 12:00pm to 1:30pm | STEM Center/Zoom



highlighted the prevalent use of pocket cameras by students and professionals as a means to express creativity. Jack emphasized that students might not be fully aware of the myriad opportunities within Video Production. Jordan proposed the development of a video series featuring local individuals in video production occupations, providing real-world insights. The advisory committee unanimously endorsed this proposal.

The committee delved into discussions regarding audio and copywriting challenges, underscoring the need for heightened awareness among students entering the profession. Dan and Jila mentioned their use of Librarian in classes, covering fundamental copywriting laws. Iain confirmed NTC's commitment to improving awareness of these copywriting concerns and also expressed interest in exploring the expansion of the post-production possibilities, specifically potential collaboration with audio engineers.

Bridget observed that critical thinking and problem-solving posed challenges for younger or less experienced individuals. Jack noted this as a prevailing trend in schools, attributing to platforms like AI. Iain sought the committee's input on addressing this trend. Jila detailed her creative process class, designed to foster critical thinking, though she acknowledged difficulties in encouraging students to expand their ideas. Iain suggested exploring partnerships with high schools to introduce these skills at an earlier stage, and provided details on some of the partnerships NTC is exploring related to AI, including ongoing work with UWSP.

The committee inquired about student collaboration on projects, with Jordan explaining his approach of pairing students with complementary skills. Jack recommended utilizing the Adobe Creator Type website, assessing individuals' creative types, and facilitating group formation for a designated period of 9 weeks.

Program and Curriculum Discussion

Iain shared the current enrollment numbers as follows:

- Wausau Campus:
 - 1st semester - 14 students
 - 3rd semester – 8 students
- Virtual College:
 - 1st semester – 15 students
 - 3rd semester - 7 students

There were no proposed curriculum changes for the committee to discuss.

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Video Production Advisory Committee

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NTC College-Wide Updates

- The committee was sent a PowerPoint showing the College-Wide Updates.
- The new programs started in the fall of 2023 included:
 - Hospitality Management Associate Degree
 - Smart Manufacturing Technology Associate Degree
 - QuickBooks Specialist Technical Diploma
 - Therapeutic Massage Technical Diploma
 - Nail Technology Certificate
 - Pasture to Plate Butchery Certificate
- NTC is undergoing a 10-year reaffirmation of the accreditation process and will be evaluated on the following five criteria: Mission, Integrity, Teaching and Learning, Assessment, and Planning. This visit is made up of 3 key parts that directly impact advisory committee members:
 - Written Self-Study
 - An extensive self-evaluation, called the “assurance review,” provides NTC’s written case for reaffirmation of accreditation, and was submitted by NTC’s accreditation team by October 6, 2023.
 - HLC Campus Visit: Nov. 6-7
 - Five HLC review members will visit campus and conduct planned and ad-hoc interviews with a range of stakeholders, including the president, Board of Trustees, deans, VPs, managers, faculty, staff, and students.
 - Advisory Committee Feedback
 - Your feedback on the ability of NTC to meet the HLC’s criteria for evaluation was important to both NTC and the HLC. Your submitted comments were referred to NTC’s Accreditation Manager, Adam Sprague.
- All NTC programs have a CIP code that is assigned by the WTCS, each CIP code crosswalks to a list of SOC codes that describe occupations that can be directly tied to a program.
 - CIP – Classification of Instructional Programs
 - Describes a program of study
 - Supports accurate tracking of program completion activities
 - Developed by the US Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics

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8th December 2023 | 12:00pm to 1:30pm | STEM Center/Zoom



- SOC – Standard Occupational Classification
 - Nation’s primary source of occupational information
 - Updated continually by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation
 - Sponsored by the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
- WTPD offers **Professional Development** and **Community Education Classes**. Some topics include:
 - CDL Hazardous Materials
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 - **Timberwolf Learning Commons**, with library, tutors, and coaches available
 - Student Scholarships
 - **Student Life** offers several programs, both in-person and remote, to allow students to meet each other, get involved, relax, and have fun.

Next Meeting Details and Suggestions

The committee will be sent meeting details at a later date.

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Video Production Advisory Committee

8th December 2023 | 12:00pm to 1:30pm | STEM Center/Zoom



Contact Details –

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Medical Assistant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/13/2023

Time: 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Location: CHS 4011 and Zoom

Zoom link: <https://ntc.zoom.us/j/88557039651>

Attendees

Industry Members:

- Carrie Arrowood, Operations Manager, Marshfield Clinic Health System ZOOM
- Gina Backus, Operations Manager, Marshfield Clinic (Mosinee and Merrill Centers) ZOOM
- Miranda Kasper, HR Specialist, Gastrointestinal Associates
- Mason Heldt, Student Placement Coordinator, Aspirus Wausau Hospital ZOOM
- Juanmanuel Rocha, CMA/NTC Graduate, Marshfield Clinic

NTC Team:

- Laura Ahonen, Associate Dean of Allied Health, NTC
- Jordyn Olson, Student Success Advisor, NTC
- Maria Pernsteiner, Learning Coordinator, NTC
- Nicole Roberts, Medical Assistant Program Director, NTC
- Sandie Shorey, Health Sciences Administrative Assistant, NTC

Guests:

- Kori Chaignot, Director of Clinical Operations, Gastrointestinal Associates
- Ashley Pintor, NTC MA Student
- Sara Shirek, Medical Assistant Coordinator, Gastrointestinal Associates

Welcome & Introductions

Nicole Roberts, Faculty and MA Program Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and shared which facility they represented.

Update and Highlights from Last Meeting

Laura Ahonen, Associate Dean of Allied Health, shared that Sandie Shorey, Administrative Assistant, sent an email with the Spring Advisory Committee meeting minutes. Members were asked to look over the minutes and asked if any changes were needed. No changes were needed.

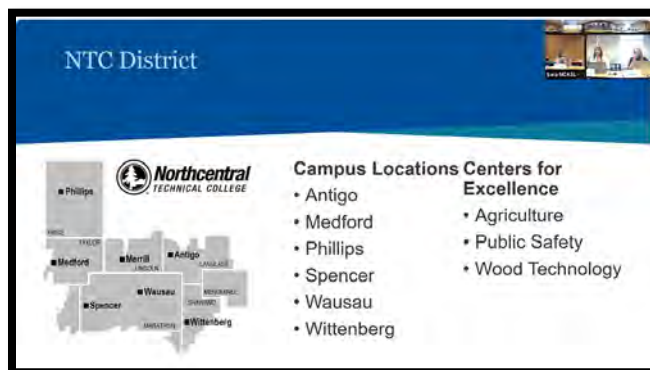
College-Wide Initiatives

Laura Ahonen, Associate Dean of Allied Health, presented the Northcentral Technical College (NTC) College-Wide Initiatives including:

A. Wisconsin Technical College System – WTCS



B. NTC District



C. New Programs Starting in Fall 2023

- Hospitality Management - Associate Degree 2 yr
- Smart Manufacturing Technology - Associate Degree 2 yr
 - Using Industry Robotics Classroom
- QuickBooks Specialist - Technical Diploma
- Therapeutic Massage - Technical Diploma
 - Looking for patients!
- Nail Technology - Certificate
- Pasture to Plate Butchery – Certificate
 - We have an NTC farm and part of that program is that we have a dairy program. So, they raise cattle at the NTC Farm. We actually then use the cattle that NTC raises to teach students in the culinary programs. How to properly butcher cattle, and then (through the pasture to plate certificate) how to utilize this meat in preparing meals.



D. NTC Accreditation- Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Update

What is it? NTC is undergoing a 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation process and will be evaluated on the following five criteria: Mission, Integrity, Teaching and Learning, Assessment, and Planning.

This visit is made up of 3 key parts that directly impact advisory committee members:

1. **Written Self-Study**

An extensive self-evaluation, called the “assurance review,” provides NTC’s written case for reaffirmation of accreditation, which will be submitted by NTC’s accreditation team by October 6, 2023.

2. **HLC Campus Visit: Nov. 6 and 7**

Five HLC review members will visit our campus and conduct planned and ad-hoc interviews with a range of stakeholders, including the president, Board of Trustees, deans, VPs, managers, faculty, staff, and students.

3. Advisory Committee Feedback

Your feedback on the ability of NTC to meet the HLC's criteria for evaluation is important both NTC and the HLC.

E. CIP and SOC Codes (was not discussed since these are used for salaries, etc and not specific to Medical Coding)

1. CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs)

- i. Describes a program of study
- ii. Supports accurate tracking of program completion activities
- iii. Developed by the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics

2. SOC (Standard Occupational Classification)

- i. Nation's primary source of occupational information
- ii. Updated continually by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation
- iii. Sponsored by the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

All NTC programs have a CIP code that is assigned by the WTCS, each CIP code crosswalks to a list of SOC codes that describes occupations that can be directly tied to a program.

F. Student Support

These are some of the resources available to our students:

- Unlimited access to free mental health services through **The Virtual Care Group** (thevirtualcaregroup.com/ntc or 866.533.1827)- 24/7 support available
- The **Advising Specialist** can help connect the student with other emergency financial, computer and community resources.
- **Timberwolf Table**, NTC's food pantry for students
- **Timberwolf Learning Commons**, with library, tutors and coaches available
- Student Scholarships
- **Student Life** offers a number of programs, both in-person and remote, to allow students to meet each other, get involved, relax, and have fun.

**Please reach out to Program Director (Cory Sullivan) or Associate Dean of Allied Health (Laura Ahonen) if you have a student at your clinical site that you feel needs assistance.*

Program Updates

Medical Assistant Program Updates

- Graduate Surveys
 - Practicum Resources
 - Practicum Sites
- Employer Surveys
 - Resource Assessment – Is an important tool used to ensure that any deficiencies in the program can be identified immediately and that a specific action plan's can then be developed and followed.

Grad surveys from past 2 years were very favorable, leaving students feeling very prepared! The majority of the individuals that they were working with and that were mentoring them were very welcoming and very supportive. That was great to hear and it speaks very highly for our clinical partners and the sites that allow our students to complete their rotations.

Employer surveys were positive!

Medical Assistant Program Updates

➤ Enrollment & Retention

➤ Spring 2023

- 8 graduates (Fall 22 cohort)
- 4 Spring 23 starts

➤ Fall 2023

- 13 Fall 23 starts
 - 12 will continue to 2nd semester
 - 1 student transfer to Nursing
- 3 graduates
 - 1 Spring 23 cohort
 - 1 Fall 22 cohort
 - 1 Spring 22 cohort

➤ CMA Exam Results

➤ 2022-2023 graduates:

- Fall 22
 - 6 grads (Spring 22 cohort)
 - 5 sat for exam
 - 5 passed
- Spring 23
 - 8 grads (Fall 22 cohort)
 - 6 sat for exam
 - 3 passed
 - 2 applied for RMA after unsuccessful CMA attempt.

6 individuals graduated in spring 2022, 5 of those individuals that for their CMA Exam and all 5 passed, so that was wonderful. In spring, there were 8 graduates, and only 6 of them sat, and 3 of them passed. So, there was a significant decline in the past rate.

Note: 2 of the 3 the individuals that were unsuccessful in their CMA have applied for their RMA, so hopefully they will be successful on that.

Losing 1 student from MA to the Nursing Program

2023 Medical Assistant Annual Report Form (ARF)

Year	Retention	Graduate Participation	Graduate Satisfaction	Job Placement	Employer Surveys Sent	Employer Satisfaction	Exam Participation	Exam Passages	# Graduates by Admission Year	# Graduates by Year of Graduation
	>=68%	>=30%	>=80%	>=60%	>=80%	>=80%	>=30%	>=60%		
2022	100.00%	75.00%	100.00%	92.31%	100.00%	100.00%	83.33%	90.00%	13	12
2021	97.61%	60.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	60.00%	57.50%	18	18
2020	88.58%	75.00%	100.00%	80.00%	100.00%	80.00%	75.00%	93.33%	15	20

*Retention Threshold Requirement for MAERB is 68% (which we are well above)

Program Modifications and Substantive Changes

Medical Assistant Options

The Medical Assistant Technical Diploma is a 32 – 33 Credit Program*. In addition to our full-time option, we have modified our part-time track. This new part-time option will allow the student to complete the program in 4 terms.



Some individuals moving forward would not have been able to complete the program the way it was before. Summer was eliminated. With enrollment, if we do not have at least 8 students, the students can still move forward in their track. This is important as some are trying to complete to move forward in other programs, so they delays can be frustrating.

Medical Assistant Technical Diploma

32-33 Credits Total

MEDICAL ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIPLOMA – 1 ST SEMESTER	MEDICAL ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIPLOMA – 2 ND SEMESTER
18-19 credits Medical Asst Admin Procedures Human Body in Health & Disease Medical Asst Lab Procedures 1 Medical Asst Clin Procedures 1 <i>College 101</i> <i>Digital Literacy for Healthcare</i> <i>Med Term</i> <i>Culture of Healthcare or Written Comm</i>	14 credits Pharmacology for Allied Health Med Asst Lab Procedures 2 Med Asst Clin Procedures 2 Med Office Insurance & Finance Medical Law, Ethics & Professionalism Medical Assistant Practicum

Medical Assistant Technical Diploma	
32-33 Credits Total	
MEDICAL ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIPLOMA – 1 ST SEMESTER	MEDICAL ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIPLOMA – 2 ND SEMESTER
18-19 credits	14 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Asst Admin Procedures Human Body in Health & Disease Medical Asst Lab Procedures 1 Medical Asst Clin Procedures 1 College 101 Digital Literacy for Healthcare 2 credits Med Term Culture of Healthcare 2 credits or Written Comm 3 credits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacology for Allied Health Med Asst Lab Procedures 2 Med Asst Clin Procedures 2 Med Office Insurance & Finance Medical Law, Ethics & Professionalism Medical Assistant Practicum

We will be removing these two courses from the list of required courses. Pulling these out, this will drop the credit load down for our 1st semester students.

Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Medical Assistant Aligned Meetings	
➤ WTCS Program Director meeting 12/8/23	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MA Enrollment is a challenge across the WTCS system ➤ Professionalism is a challenge ➤ Some colleges beginning a Clinical Assistant program ➤ Medical Terminology and Human Body in Health & Disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some colleges combining the 2 courses, some are keeping them separate based on advisory committee recommendations 	

Enrollments are a challenge across the system.

Med Term/Human Body- thoughts on combining them or keeping them separate. Nicole mentioned the content involved as being critical and her recommendation is to keep them stand alone.

Professionalism- students in the classroom and in clinicals are struggling in this area.

Industry Partner Feedback:

Carrie Arrowood, Operations Manager, Marshfield Clinic Health System - said this is very much the case and it has become the norm since COVID.

Jordyn Olson, Student Success Advisor, NTC- for Med Term, when looking at transfers, she warns that it will not make an easy transfer. For Human Body, there are a few course substitutions that can help in this area.

Juanmanuel Rocha, CMA/NTC Graduate, Marshfield Clinic- he mentioned that Human Body is very challenging, as is Med Term, so this would be very challenging and overwhelming for 1st semester students.

Ashley- she echoed that Human Body is very challenging, as is Med Term, so this would be very challenging and overwhelming for 1st semester students.

Program Goals

Program Goal(s)

Medical Assistant Program Goals (Minimum Expectations)

The goal of the Medical Assistant Program is to prepare competent entry-level medical assistants in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains. The NTC Medical Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP), on the recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB). This means that the curriculum is carefully regulated to ensure that it includes essential components and meets standards mandated by this organization. Accreditation allows the graduates of our medical assistant program to complete the national certification examination administered by the American Association of Medical Assistants. When graduates successfully complete this examination, they are known as Certified Medical Assistants and may use the title CMA.

Workforce Training and Professional Development Initiatives

WTPD offers **Professional Development** and **Community Education Classes**. Some topics include:

- CDL Hazardous Materials
- AI and Automation: Digital Transformation Series
- SHRM Certification Prep
- Putting the Engage back in Engagement for Community Organizations
- Ballroom and Social Dance
- Cooking Classes

www.ntc.edu then search professional development for additional information of classes offered and the available schedule and well as costs associated with these classes.

Reformatting of Bi-Annual Conference-**ACTION ITEM: We will include this in the mailing packet since WTPD was not present at the meeting** to explain the reformatting of the bi-annual conference.

Apprenticeship Updates- We were approached by clinical partners about re-emerging the clinical partnership. Students will be employed at the organization. They will be considered apprenticeship students, but they will attend courses the same way as our traditional students. So, this is really considered more of a “pathway” than a separate program. This is still in the initial phases. We are working with DWD to get the specific requirements and legal aspects finalized. We will keep you abreast of changes and more information as it is made available to us. At this point, we just wanted to bring awareness to the fact that this will again be an option available to students and industry partners.



This will likely will be implemented for Fall 2024-Company would list the apprenticeship position and hire the student and then they work with NTC on the apprenticeship side of things. Please contact Nicole Roberts for questions on this opportunity.

Industry Trends

Any new changes or modifications in the clinics: none were brought up in the meeting.

Staffing Needs for MAs: Different ways to fill the gaps; how to get competent people to enroll so we can work to fill these gaps. One concept mentioned was pulling in other Health Professionals in as MA; and there were pros and cons mentioned.

Clinical Assistant Program: Vitals and Rooming done by this “stripped down” role and then the MA comes in to complete things that require certification; what are the plusses and minuses and also the pay differences between these roles.

Discussion on this from Industry Partners:

Carrie-Individuals who were appt coordinators for several years who are now serving in MA roles (after taking the needed classes) and they are doing great in these roles.

Mason- patient care support staff (switching staffing model) so that non-certified personnel are rooming and doing tasks that do not-require certification. They are paid less per hour than the CMAs. Then the MAs do the tasks that require certification. The pay difference is Patient Care Support Staff start at minimum wage (\$16/hr) versus CMA (\$17.65/hr) with a starting wage of about \$1.65 per hour more.

Kori- at GI Associates they hired 4 RNs who have a split role; learning full triage too. Agreed that what they would pay non-certified personnel would be similar to what Mason cited, whereas what they pay an RN is RN wages (significantly higher).

Student Perspective

Ashley Pintor, Student. She spoke about her learning experience and the encouragement she received. She did mention that she would have loved the option of Summer classes to keep her progress moving, but also understands the need for a group starting in the fall and spring. She also spoke about how she feels many people do not know that NTC has the MA program. She is feeling confident going into her certification. Ashley was our MA Outstanding Graduate. Lab was her favorite! And she really loved peds and OB during her clinicals. She has a job already lined up at the clinic where she did her clinicals.

Employer Perspective

How has the program prepared grads for employment? none

Professionalism? Already Discussed and is always an ongoing conversation.

What do we need to do different/better?

Kori- she asked what do we say or do to prepare our students to become lifelong learners and hunger to learn and grow in their careers? They have had some challenges in this area.

Nicole responded that we do talk with students that there is always more information that they will want/need to know.- In healthcare, it is taking the extra step to take the initiative to learn more. Nicole asked if the specialists offices have resources available for new staff to study if they do have that initiative to learn more.

Mason- shared a very positive experience she had with an NTC MA student rooming her at a recent clinic appt she had and she stated that she actually felt as though the student almost did a better, more thorough job than the usual MA who rooms her. This was such wonderful feedback to hear!

Facilities/Equipment

MA Space Upcoming Remodel Update

Current MA Entry Room – was a space with a phone, desk and chair. The new space allows for a procedure style room that has a height adjustable bed, an actual scrub sink, has room for autoclave so there is more room for the students to do sterile skills and learn how to assist with those procedures.

In addition, on the other side of the wall they are installing additional cabinetry and another sink to allow the students a space to draw up immunizations and things like that before bringing them into the exam room.

The hope it to provide students with a more realistic clinic experience versus only having the exam room.

Construction is starting this week on this remodel project, so the room will be completed for tours by the time this group meets in the Spring.

Next Meeting Schedule & Agenda Items Discussion

The next meeting of the MA Advisory Committee will be Spring 2024. Please watch for this date announcement when the minutes of this meeting are emailed out to the full committee.

This meeting was adjourned at 1:12pm in order to allow committee members time to tour the CHS building and see the updates that had been made in summer and early fall.



Date	Event	Troy Brown	Sherry Buntin	Tuona Crowder	Michael Endreas	Tom Felch	Keith Langenhahn	Charlie Paulson	Paul Proulx	Heather Renzelmann
2023										
MONDAY July 10	Annual Organizational Meeting	X	X	E	X	X	E	E	X	X
July 20-22	WTC DBA Summer Meeting (Canceled)									
August 15	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	X
September 19	Veterinary Technician Learning Lab Ribbon Cutting (Agriculture Center of Excellence)		X			X		X	X	
September 19	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (Lunch at 12:00 p.m. following Ribbon Cutting)	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X
October 17	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
October 25-28	WTC Legal Issues Seminar (WCTC)								X	
November 7	Board Retreat + HLC Site Visit (8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X
December 5	Health 4.0 Ribbon Cutting		X			X		X	X	X
December 5	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (Lunch at 11:45 a.m. w/Foundation Board)	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X
December 9	Graduation (10:00 a.m. @ The Grand Theater)					X			X	
2024										
January 9	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	X
February 6	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X	X
March 12	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
March 19	WTCS Celebrates Ag Day (10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) (Agriculture Center of Excellence)									
March 22-23	WTC DBA Spring Meeting (Rhinelander – NATC)									
April 9	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting (Medford Campus)									
April 18	WTCS Ambassador Banquet (Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells)									
April 19	WTC DBA Trustees Breakfast									

	<i>(Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells)</i>									
May 7	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting									
May 18	<i>Graduation (9:00 a.m. @ Wausau West Fieldhouse)</i>									
June 4	Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meeting <i>(Public Budget Hearing at 12:00 p.m. Lunch at approx. 12:15 p.m. Regular Meeting at 1:00 p.m.)</i>									

All Regular NTC Board of Trustees Meetings begin at 1:00 p.m. and are held on the Wausau Campus located at 1000 W. Campus Drive, Wausau, WI 54401 in Timberwolf Conference Center/Room D100 unless otherwise noted.



Madison, Wisconsin State Journal

ORAL HEALTH | EXPANDING ACCESS

Dental therapists on the way

Bills will authorize mid-level providers, fund more training

DAVID WAHLBERG
dwahlberg@madison.com

Dental therapists, mid-level providers whose level of care is between dentists and hygienists, will be allowed in Wisconsin, as Gov. Tony Evers on Wednesday plans to approve the workers and other dental care initiatives.

Wisconsin is joining 13 states, including Michigan and Minnesota, in authorizing dental therapists to expand access to dental care, especially for patients on Medicaid or without insurance and in rural areas. The providers can fill cavities, do oral exams and pull some teeth but can't do more complex procedures such as root canals and crowns.

Evers also plans to sign bills to give up to \$20 million to technical colleges to boost oral care training programs, provide scholarships to

Marquette University dental students who practice in underserved areas, and make it easier for dentists to work in multiple states and get paid by health insurance plans.

Up to \$2 million of the \$20 million, already set aside for technical colleges in the current state budget, is for Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, where Evers is expected to sign the bills. The money will help that campus start a dental therapy training program and support its dental assistant and dental hygienist programs.

The initiatives "will move us forward in our work to address shortages and bolster our dental health care workforce while also closing gaps in access across the state," Evers said in a statement.

Long road to therapists

The Wisconsin Dental Association long opposed dental therapists, saying they would compete with dentists and not necessarily work in underserved areas. Bills to allow them were introduced at least three times before the state

Legislature approved the bipartisan measure this month.

WDA dropped its opposition two years ago after restrictions were added. Those include requiring dental therapists to work in dental health professional shortage areas or see mostly underserved patients, such as those on Medicaid.

Dental therapists will also have to graduate from accredited training programs and work under a dentist's supervision.

Please see DENTAL, Page A7

Madison, Wisconsin State Journal

Dental

From A1

The role is similar to how physician assistants work with doctors.

Dr. Patrick Tepe, a dentist in Verona on WDA's legislative advocacy committee, said in November that dental therapists could especially help in public health settings such as the state's 19 federally funded health centers.

Dr. Tina Sopiwnik, a dentist and chief dental officer at one of the centers, Ashland-based North-

Lakes Community Clinic, said the clinic has 13 dentists and could use at least seven more, especially in locations such as Hayward, Hurley, Iron River and Lakewood. If dental therapists were available, they could fill some of those slots, she said.

"A dental therapist could be used for all of the primary care, and dentists could do more comprehensive treatments, like root canals, crowns, dentures and implants," Sopiwnik said.

Other states with dental therapists are Alaska, Arizona, Colo-

rado, Connecticut, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Maine, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. Minnesota became the first state to pass such legislation, in 2009.

It can be difficult for people on Medicaid to find dentists who will treat them. Dentists say that's because the state-federal program doesn't pay them enough to cover their costs.

Just 37.9% of Wisconsin dentists work with Medicaid or the federal Children's Health Insurance Program, compared with 43% nation-

ally, according to the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute. The state's Medicaid payments for children are 33.6% of what dentists say they get paid from private insurance, compared with 61.4% nationally, the ADA institute says. For adults, it's 33% in the state and 53.3% nationally.

Other bills

Under the other bills Evers plans to sign, technical colleges can apply to the Legislature's joint finance committee for a share of the \$20 million to start or expand

dental staff training programs.

Marquette University, which runs the state's only dental school, will get \$350,000 a year to support recruitment and training of rural dentistry students, and graduates who work in shortage areas for 18 months will get scholarships.

Dentists and hygienists will be able to work in states that share a licensing agreement. People with dental insurance can designate a specific dental provider, which should prevent the need for them to pay for care before getting reimbursed by insurance.

Evers to OK use of dental therapists

DAVID WAHLBERG
Wisconsin State Journal

MADISON — Dental therapists, mid-level providers whose level of care is between dentists and hygienists, will be allowed in Wisconsin, as Gov. Tony Evers on Wednesday plans to approve the workers and other dental care initiatives.

Wisconsin is joining 13 states, including Michigan and Minnesota, in authorizing dental therapists to expand access to dental care, especially for patients on Medicaid or without insurance and in rural areas. The providers can fill cavities, do oral exams and pull some teeth but can't do more complex procedures such as root canals and crowns.

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Feb
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2024

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Wisconsin governor signs legislative package aimed at expanding access to dental care

MADISON (AP) — Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers signed a package of bipartisan legislation aimed at expanding access to dental care and addressing dental workforce shortages across the state into law Wednesday.

U.S. Health Resources Administration data released this month found

shortages of dental care in 160 areas of Wisconsin, defined as geographic areas, facilities or populations experiencing a shortage of care providers.

The package Evers signed includes five bills, including one that authorizes licenses for dental therapists who practice in areas experiencing shortages in care. Dental

therapists are positions between a dentist and a hygienist — they can fill cavities but can't perform more complex operations like root canals.

Other bills in the package create guidelines for distributing \$20 million in state aid for technical colleges' dental training programs, create scholarships for Marquette University

dental students who agree to practice in underserved areas, allow dental workers from out of state to practice in Wisconsin, and allow insurers to send reimbursements directly to a provider rather than the patient if the patient requests it.

Evers signed the bills at [Northcentral Technical College](#) in Wausau.

Fort Atkinson, Daily Jefferson County Union (1870-2005 & 2005-current)

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Feb
01

2024

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State approves dental therapists

Evers signs bill that
expands access to oral care

DAVID WAHLBERG
dwahlberg@madison.com

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Wisconsin is joining 13 states, including Michigan and Minnesota, in authorizing dental therapists to expand access to dental care, especially for patients on Medicaid or without insurance and in rural areas. The providers can fill cavities, do oral exams and pull some teeth but can't do more complex procedures such as root canals and crowns.



Evers

Evers also plans to sign bills to give up to \$20 million to technical colleges to boost oral care training programs, provide scholarships to Marquette University dental students who practice in underserved areas, and make it easier for dentists to work in multiple states and get paid by health insurance plans.

Evers visited Western Technical College in La Crosse on Wednesday to highlight his new state task force on the health care workforce. He was expected to sign the bills earlier in the day during a visit to **Northcentral Technical College** in Wausau, which would receive pp to \$2 million of the \$20 million, already set aside for technical colleges in the current state budget. The money will help that campus start a dental therapy training program and support its dental assistant and dental hygienist programs.

Please see **THERAPIST**, Page A5

■ **Evers stops in La Crosse:** Visit our website or see Saturday's print edition for more coverage from Gov. Tony Evers' appearance Wednesday at Western Technical College in La Crosse. **www.lacrossetribune.com**

Therapist

From A1

The initiatives “will move us forward in our work to address shortages and bolster our dental health care workforce while also closing gaps in access across the state,” Evers said in a statement.

Long road to therapists

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AMBER ARNOLD, STATE JOURNAL ARCHIVES

Dentist Paula Duszynski checks Joseph Merit’s remaining teeth at a checkup in October 2023. Merit, 72, of Lancaster, had several teeth pulled and got dentures through Access Community Health Centers in Dodgeville after some of his teeth became infected.

pecially in locations such as Hayward, Hurley, Iron River and Lakewood. If dental therapists were available, they could fill some of those slots, she said.

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Feb
01

2024

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State OKs use of dental therapists

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Wisconsin State Journal

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Evers also plans to sign bills to give up to \$20 million to technical colleges to boost oral care training programs, provide scholarships to Marquette University dental students who practice in underserved areas, and make it easier for dentists to work in multiple states and get paid by health insurance plans.

Up to \$2 million of the \$20 million, already set aside for technical colleges in the current state budget, is for Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, where Evers is expected to sign the bills. The money will help that campus start a dental therapy training program and support its dental assistant and dental hygienist programs.

The initiatives "will move us forward in our work to address shortages and bolster our dental health care workforce while also closing gaps in access across the state," Evers said in a statement.

Long road to therapists

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WDA dropped its opposition two years ago after restrictions were added. Those include requiring dental therapists to work in dental health professional shortage areas or see mostly underserved patients, such as those on Medicaid.

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Dr. Tina Sopiwnik, a dentist and chief dental officer at one of the centers, Ashland-based NorthLakes Community Clinic, said the clinic has 13 dentists and could use at least seven more, especially in locations such as Hayward, Hurley, Iron River and Lakewood. If dental therapists were available, they could fill some of those slots, she said.

"A dental therapist could be used for all of the primary care, and dentists could do more comprehensive treatments, like root canals, crowns, dentures and implants," Sopiwnik said.

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AMBER ARNOLD, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

Dentist Paula Duszynski checks Joseph Merit's remaining teeth at a checkup in October 2023. Merit, 72, of Lancaster, had several teeth pulled and got dentures through Access Community Health Centers in Dodgeville after some of his teeth became infected.

More dental access

Wisconsin approves dental therapists

DAVID WAHLBERG
dwahlberg@madison.com

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Other states with dental therapists are Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Maine,

New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. Minnesota became the first state to pass such legislation in 2009.

It can be difficult for people on Medicaid to find dentists who will treat them. Dentists say that's because the state-federal program doesn't pay them enough to cover their costs.

Just 37.9% of Wisconsin dentists work with Medicaid or the federal Children's Health Insurance Program, compared with 43% nationally, according to the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute. The state's Medicaid payments for children are 33.6% of what dentists say they get paid from private insurance, compared with 61.4% nationally, the ADA institute says. For adults, it's 33% in the state and 53.3% nationally.

Other bills

Under the other bills Evers planned to sign, technical colleges can apply to the Legislature's joint finance committee for a share of the \$20 million to start or expand dental staff training programs.

Please see DENTAL, Page A5



Chippewa Falls, The Chippewa Herald

Dental

From A3

00
1 Marquette University, which runs the state's only dental school, will get \$350,000 a year to support recruitment and training of rural dentistry students, and graduates who work in shortage areas for 18

months will get scholarships.

Dentists and hygienists will be able to work in states that share a licensing agreement. People with dental insurance can designate a specific dental provider, which should prevent the need for them to pay for care before getting reimbursed by insurance.



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Medford, The Star News

Rib Lake rewards smart cookies

BY ELIZABETH WILSON
REPORTER

At the Wednesday, January 24, 2024 meeting of the Rib Lake Board of Education meeting, the Board approved a proposal given by Rib Lake High School (RLHS) Student Council members Anna Martin and Gabriella Gustafson.

The proposal was to give RLHS seniors the opportunity to have lunch off campus. The Student Council members presented the board with a fully fleshed out proposal including how it would work, what supervision would be required, and who would be allowed to go.

RLHS seniors would be allowed to eat lunch off campus on Fridays only. During

this time, students leaving are required to sign out in the office. Students must have a signed permission slip from their guardians, and have a list of requirements they need to meet before being allowed to go. One such requirement is attendance related. Students must be on time back to

See **RIB LAKE** on page 4

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NEWS



Rib Lake approves open campus option for standout seniors

Continued from page 1

classes and they must not have 3 or more tardies to any class. Other requirements are academic – only students with a 3.0 GPA will be allowed to participate. More requirements have to do with responsibility. Students must not transport or bring food and drink to students who do not have this privilege, students must not leave litter in the parking lot, and they must not have any behavior referrals for the semester.

The Board approved this proposal for the rest of this year, and will revisit it during the summer to make changes for next school year.

RLHS Student Council member Madison Grzanna also presented a proposal to the Board at the meeting, which was also approved. RLHS seniors will be allowed to purchase parking passes for specific parking spots, and will be allowed to decorate the parking spots with school-approved designs. Seniors will need to fill out an application with the design and have it approved before decorating the parking spot. All designs must be appropriate and not disrespect others, use offensive imagery, contain political statements, have any personal information not permitted to be shared by the school district, have references to inappropriate behaviors, have advertisements for businesses or products, have references to other schools, have double entendres, or have any name other than that of the student who the spot belongs to. Designs that are encouraged contain school themes, celebrate school spirit, and promote Rib Lake clubs or sports.

It will cost \$10 for the parking pass and another \$25 to be allowed to personalize the spot. The school will not provide the supplies for the painting. There will be two parking spot decorating days in August for the students who elect to participate. Any paint used must be exterior all weather or water based paint.

At the end of the school year, juniors will be given service hours for painting over the spots with black paint purchased with the funds collected from the seniors that personalized their spots. This will begin with next school year's seniors.

In other business:

- ★ On ACT Day for Juniors (March



Travis Grubbs

12), no students will be in the high school except for the juniors taking their exam. Freshmen will be taking campus visits to NTC and UW-Stevens Point. Who is a sophomore?

more are visiting UW- Eau Claire, and the Seniors will all be required to do job shadowing.

The Board is considering changing the social studies courses required and the order of them. The current requirements have freshmen taking one semester of civics, sophomores taking one semester of an elective, juniors taking a year of U.S. History, and seniors taking one semester of sociology and one semester of economics. The proposed plan is for freshmen to take one elective social studies class, giving sophomores a year of U.S. History, giving Juniors a semester of world history and a semester of sociology, and giving seniors a semester of civics. This plan is not approved as of now, but will be discussed further before starting next school year.

The April 2024 elections are fast approaching. Three seats will be opening for reelection this year. Stacy Tlusty is running for the Town of Westboro seat, Nicole Glenzer is running for the Town of Rib Lake seat, and both Jackie Mohr and Peter Meyer are running for the District at Large seat on the Board.

Along with the April 2024 Board elections, citizens will be voting for a referendum. "Given the increase in property value across the School District of Rib Lake the estimated tax impact for a \$19.5 million referendum is an additional \$146 per \$100,000 of value. The school district website will have a tax impact calculator on the referendum page for residents to use and see the impact for their specific property," said District Administrator

Travis Grubbs.

This referendum is for the funds necessary to maintain the buildings and to make sure Rib Lake's schools thrive for years to come. Community information sessions regarding the upcoming referendum vote will be happening on Wednesday, February 21 at 10 a.m. and at 6 p.m. as well as on Monday, March 18 at 6 p.m. These will take place in the Rib Lake Middle School library.

The community education programs being held have been hugely popular, many accruing a waiting list. Upcoming programs are Women's Volleyball League every Wednesday until February 28th, 2024 from 6-8 p.m. in the Elementary Gym. Pickleball every Wednesday until February 28th, 2024 from 6:00-8:00pm in the High School Gym.

Introduction to CAD Using Sketchup February 20, 22, 27, and 29 from 6-8 p.m. in the high school in room 109.

The school will be reopening applications for a 5th grade teaching position in the 2024-25 school year that remained open throughout this school year.

The School District of Rib Lake completed the 2nd Friday in January student count. Student enrollment in the district continued increasing. Rib Lake schools had 12 additional students in the count increasing the enrollment from 525 to 537, a 2.3% increase from September.

The district middle school spelling bee was held and three students - Madelyn A., Kaelyn B., and Isaac H. - are moving on to the regional bee which will be held on February 7th at 1 p.m. in the Rib Lake Middle School IMC.

Freshman orientation is February 20.

The Marawood Art Show is February 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m..

The staff planning committee has decided to move from a purely "Athletic Code" to a more broad "Activities Code"

to promote the same standards for all students participating in extracurricular activities, not just student athletes. There will be a few meetings in the spring to go over the adapted code and make any adjustments.

Rib Lake High School graduation will be on May 24.

Child Development Day will be held on February 16 from 8:15-3:30 in the Rib Lake Elementary Gymnasium. Children from 2 ½ to 4 years old can attend. Appointments can be made by calling Amy Foster at the Rib Lake Elementary School. The phone number is (715) 427-5818. Children will get to work and play with school staff. They will get their eyes tested, have the opportunity to speak in front of the speech and language pathologist, and will receive a goodie bag.

February 5 is Prom Perfect from 4-7 p.m. at the Ice Age Pavilion. This is an opportunity for students to get a new-to-them prom dress for free. Students from Rib Lake, Medford, and Prentice, as well as surrounding areas, are invited to come as well. Any donations can be dropped off at the Pavilion on Sunday, February 4, starting at 1 p.m.

The Board approved a school calendar for the 2024-25 school year. Changes include matching spring break to Medford's, a date change for parent teacher conferences, and moving new teacher orientation closer to the start date of the school year.

The next meeting of the Rib Lake Board of Education will begin at 6 p.m. for the judging of the Future City competition the middle school science classes participated in. As this is the first year that Rib Lake participated in the competition, they were not allowed to compete with other schools, so the Board is going to judge the cities designed by middle school students instead. The meeting will be on February 28.



SUBMITTED

Bowling Bonanza for Families was held on Saturday January 20, as a fundraiser for the CARES Model for mental health counseling for school age children. Over \$9,000 was raised at this event. "We recognize our local bowlers, sponsors, volunteers, Counseling Connection, Aspirus, and our local school districts for this event," said student services director Joe Greget. The event was coordinated through the Taylor County Drug Opposition Partners.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Other bills in the package create guidelines for distributing \$20 million in state aid for technical colleges' dental training programs, create scholarships for Marquette

University dental students who agree to practice in underserved areas, allow dental workers from out of state to practice in Wisconsin, and allow insurers to send reimbursements directly to a provider rather than the patient if the patient requests it.

Evers signed the bills at North Central Technical College in Wausau.

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COURTESY LOGAN WELLS

Students in a previous band saw filing class.

NTC wood courses draw national attention

DANNY SPATCHEK

dspatchek@antigojournal.com

ANTIGO — Starting next week, Antigo's Northcentral Technical College (NTC) will be the site of a forestry-related class perhaps like none other in the country.

Band saw filing.

The class, one of several students can attend not for a degree but for a certification at NTC's Wood Technology Center of Excellence, runs four weeks, and will teach attendees the fundamentals of filing — that is, sharpening and technically maintaining — band saws.

The band saws are not the 14-inch variety you might keep

in your garage for light wood-working. These are industrial, logging-grade blades, 7-foot in diameter, the type with teeth reminiscent of a shark's.

During next week's class, Mitch White, a veteran saw filer with over 40 years of experience who now travels the country both training saw filers and troubleshooting their issues, will teach students all he can about his craft: how to flatten bumps out of a saw's body to reduce friction while it operates; how to shape the teeth to optimal angles and width; how to stretch the steel to prevent it from buckling. The list goes on.

White said that because of increasing costs in modern

forestry-related industries and the scarcity of workers who understand the by-now somewhat esoteric trade, saw filers are being paid at a premium.

"You're probably paying \$1,200 to \$2,400 per thousand board feet depending on the species of the log, and that's before it ever gets on a truck or comes to the mill. If you're paying that kind of money for that raw product, it's important that your saw is running straight, running true, and with as little curve as you can get by with in order to produce the most amount of lumber as fast as you can produce it and as correctly as you can produce it," White said.

More **WOOD** | **A2**

Wood/ from A1

“That saw costs \$1,200 or \$1,400, and if we can get six to nine months life out of it, that’s what we’re after. It’s amazing that a few years ago, we used to use six saws per machine a year. Now they’ll buy saws by the hundreds and not be too concerned about what the saw costs. If we do a better job of keeping that saw and keeping the machines right, it’s going to make a much, much better situation for you.”

While companies often host instructors like White in their facilities for in-house training, according to White, NTC is the only actual school in the country providing this type of practical

training, information which seems to be spreading, judging by the students who have now shown up at NTC for his class: they’ve come from states everywhere from Indiana to Oregon, often at the behest of their companies.

“I really think that we have a unique situation here in Antigo,” White said. “Interfor Corporation, which is one of the largest lumber producers in the world, has asked us to do schools specifically for them. We’re interested in doing that, but not at the cost of not including everybody else. I talked with Baillie Group this morning and they want to do the same thing. They’ve got several filers that need some more experience and stuff. We’re more than

happy to provide that for whoever we can.”

Logan Wells, the director of NTC’s Wood Science Program, said band saw filing is just one of several certificate courses at the school with growing clout. Since they began being introduced into the program’s curriculum in the years following the Wood Technology Center’s establishment in 2011, continuing education wood courses involving skills such as kiln drying, hardwood lumber grading, and moulder set-up have also drawn cohorts including large contingents of out-of-state students.

More **WOOD** | **APB**

Wood/ from A2

In our last saw filing class we had a gentleman from California that oversaw their maintenance department,” Wells said. “The owner said, ‘Hey, we want to know if we should be sending all our saw-filers to this. So go through the class, tell me what you think of it.’ And then hopefully they like it and they’re going to send more and more people. But then on the flip side, we have people who say, ‘Hey, the kiln operator quit, now I’m the one who’s drying the lumber.’ And they get kind of thrown into those shoes.”

Kretz Lumber President Troy Brown, who also serves as chairman on the Center’s Advisory Board made up of local wood industry leaders, confirmed that the NTC wood program’s reputation appears to be growing nationally.

“I think that NTC’s training programs have better recognition across the country than we actually have recognition right here in Antigo and the NTC campus area,” Brown said. “We talk about that all the time. I get out [of the area] all the time for my job and people are consistently asking me how the classes are going, and how they can take advantage of the resources that we have here. These inquiries

come from Georgia, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania... I get an email, ‘Hey, I need to send a saw filer somewhere — do you know what’s going on at NTC?’”

Nevertheless, Brown said local companies — including his own — now send workers for training at NTC as well.

“We’ve sent people to the kiln drying classes. We’ve sent people to the saw filing classes, and most local sawmills have taken advantage of the different trainings that we have at NTC,” he said.

Wells said a lack of technical operators in their workforces led Brown and other members of the Wood Center’s advisory board to push for the specialized classes in the first place. He said they have continued to send workers to NTC because them training off the job is now often viewed as a more efficient way to learn than on the job.

“Our local industries said things like, ‘Hey, we want somebody that can set up a moulder. We want to train our future workforce to be able to keep our businesses sustainable after people are retiring.’ The reason this is here is because our industries said, ‘Hey, let’s make it happen,’” Wells said. “If my company is making flooring or casing, window parts, if you’re making that, you want to say,

‘Hey, I have to have an employee who knows how to use this equipment properly,’ or else you’re going to be wasting product, and that’s not a good thing. If I’ve got a new employee, I’ve got my production schedule, so this is tough. You have to meet your numbers, and if there’s mistakes, those are very, very costly. So if you can come here in a distraction-free environment, it’s not, ‘Hey, I need you to go do this,’ and you’re not bouncing back and forth. You can focus on just learning, and then it is a great experience for them.”

Brown said the impact of the entire wood science program at NTC is widening, and could grow exponentially once construction of a new, state-of-the-art sawmill which recently broke ground is completed.

“[Besides those industrial classes], there is a furniture-making class that’s very, very well attended,” Brown said. “It’s hobbyists, so it’s not just industry-specific. That ends up being quite popular with people that are my age that are hobbyists. They attend them on weekends. It’s really good for the economy because people come from all over the state for this furniture class. So it’s a really well-rounded program. It serves the community, and it serves industry.”

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Evers signed the bills at [Northcentral Technical College](#) in Wausau.

Largest beekeeping conference in Central Wisconsin returns

Event will feature some of the most prominent speakers in the country

CONTRIBUTED

WAUSAU — The Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association, in partnership with North Central Technical College, Wausau, Wisconsin, will host its Beek Meet 2024 Conference Saturday, March 16.

The event was cancelled in 2019 due to COVID-19 but organizers are bringing it back with more speakers, sessions and attendee capacity. Beek Meet 2024 will provide over 400 attendees with access to speakers, sessions and vendors sharing the latest information and products to improve their beekeeping skills.

“Beek Meet 2024 supports our mission to help educate people

on how to improve honey production and beekeeping,” said CWBA President Kelly Barnes. “In that spirit, CWBA invites beekeepers at all levels to join us to explore how to get the most from their beekeeping experience. Beek Meet 2024 is a great opportunity to come together, learn and come away feeling energized about their beekeeping experience.”

According to a survey by the nonprofit Bee Informed Partnership, hives are impacted by pesticides, parasites and diseases such as colony collapse disorder, resulting in beekeepers losing more than 40 percent of their colonies each year. Conferences like Beek Meet 2024 play a critical role in the success of beekeepers throughout the region.

Beek Meet 2024 will present a world-class line up of speakers, including keynote speaker

Kamon Reynolds, co-founder of one of the largest beekeeping conferences in North America, Hive Life. To learn more, visit cwbees.com.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Located in Wausau, Wisconsin, the Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association is a community of beekeepers and any interested persons in honeybees or beekeeping. Members range from recent high school graduates to retired beekeepers with many variants in between.

The organization has six objectives:

- education of bee culture
- agricultural synergies
- honeybee disease prevention
- honey marketing
- community outreach
- a social environment pertaining to beekeeping and the honeybee culture

State OKing use of dental therapists

DAVID WAHLBERG

Wisconsin State Journal

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Five bills signed to improve access to dental healthcare and workforce

Last week, Gov. Tony Evers took action on a package of five bipartisan bills aimed at improving access to dental healthcare, particularly in rural communities, and bolstering the dental workforce. The governor signed this legislation at NTC as they offer premier dental hygienist and dental assistant programs, and the college will be allocated up to \$2 million to support these programs and develop a new dental therapy program under the provisions of Senate Bill 702, which is one of the bills in the package signed today.

This bill package comes as, earlier this week, Gov. Evers signed Executive Order #220 to create the Governor's Task Force on the Healthcare Workforce. The task force, led by Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez, will be charged with studying the workforce challenges facing the state's healthcare systems and creating an action plan with solutions related to workforce development, industry innovation, education, and training for consideration in the governor's 2025-27 biennial budget.

Notably, the package includes Senate Bill 689, now 2024 Wisconsin Act 87, which authorizes the licensure of dental therapists, a mid-level dental provider similar to a physician's assistant who will be able to provide both preventive and restorative services and help fill gaps in care in areas where there are shortages of dentists. According to January 2024 data from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, there are 160 dental care health professional shortage areas in the state. Under the bill, dental therapists must either limit their practice to federally defined dental shortage areas or practice in settings

where at least 50 percent of their patient base consists of certain specified populations, such as Medicaid patients, uninsured patients, residents of long-term care facilities, Tribal citizens, and veterans. Gov. Evers has proposed licensure of dental therapists in three consecutive biennial budgets, but despite bipartisan support, the provision has been removed from the budget by Republicans on the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) each time, and stand-alone legislation has similarly been blocked by Republican leadership until now.

Another bill in the package, Senate Bill 702, would significantly improve the ability of technical colleges across the state to support and strengthen the dental and oral hygiene workforce, as it provides guidelines for the allocation of \$20 million for oral healthcare workforce initiatives that was set aside for the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) in the JFC's supplemental appropriation during the 2023-25 biennial budget process.

This bill package builds upon Gov. Evers and the Evers Administration's previous efforts to expand access to dental care and bolster the dental healthcare workforce. The 2019-21 biennial budget signed by Gov. Evers provided an additional \$2 million for the DHS's oral health program, including \$1.2 million to increase funding for dental clinics that serve low-income patients and \$750,000 to increase funding for the Seal-A-Smile program, which provides preventive and restorative dental services for kids in K-12 schools. The 2019-21 budget also provided a \$2.5 million increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental services provided to individuals with disabilities.

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ABBOTSFORD

College notes

Cheyenne Bowers was named to the President's List at Northcentral Technical College for the 2023 fall term. To be named to the list, students must earn a GPA of at least 3.75.

Sara Vine, Bachelor of Science, Early Childhood Education, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with Summa Cum Laude honors. Summa Cum Laude is a distinction given to graduating seniors with a minimum cumulative 3.900 grade point average for their entire college career at all institutions.

Wisconsin approves dental therapists

DAVID WAHLBERG
 dwahlberg@madison.com

Dental therapists, mid-level providers whose level of care is between dentists and hygienists, will be allowed in Wisconsin, as Gov. Tony Evers planned last week to approve the workers and other dental care initiatives.

Wisconsin is joining 13 states, including Michigan and Minnesota, in authorizing dental therapists to expand access to dental care, especially for patients on Medicaid or without insurance and in rural areas. The providers can fill cavities, do oral exams and pull some teeth but can't do more complex procedures such as root canals and crowns.

Evers also planned to sign bills to give up to \$20 million to technical colleges to boost oral care training programs, provide scholarships to Marquette University dental students who practice in underserved areas, and make it easier for dentists to work in multiple states and get paid by health

insurance plans.

Up to \$2 million of the \$20 million, already set aside for technical colleges in the current state budget, is for [Northcentral Technical College](#) in Wausau, where Evers was expected to sign the bills. The money will help that campus start a dental therapy training program and support its dental assistant and dental hygienist programs.

The initiatives "will move us forward in our work to address shortages and bolster our dental health care workforce while also closing gaps in access across the state," Evers said in a statement.

Long road to therapists

The Wisconsin Dental Association long opposed dental therapists, saying they would compete with dentists and not necessarily work in underserved areas. Bills to allow them were introduced at least three times before the state Legislature approved the bipartisan measure this month.

WDA dropped its opposition

two years ago after restrictions were added. Those include requiring dental therapists to work in dental health professional shortage areas or see mostly underserved patients, such as those on Medicaid.

Dental therapists will also have to graduate from accredited training programs and work under a dentist's supervision. The role is similar to how physician assistants work with doctors.

Dr. Patrick Tepe, a dentist in Verona on WDA's legislative advocacy committee, said in November that dental therapists could especially help in public health settings such as the state's 19 federally funded health centers.

Dr. Tina Sopiwnik, a dentist and chief dental officer at one of the centers, Ashland-based NorthLakes Community Clinic, said the clinic has 13 dentists and could use at least seven more, especially in locations such as Hayward, Hurley, Iron River and Lakewood. If dental therapists were available, they could fill some

of those slots, she said.

"A dental therapist could be used for all of the primary care, and dentists could do more comprehensive treatments, like root canals, crowns, dentures and implants," Sopiwnik said.

Other states with dental therapists are Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Maine, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. Minnesota became the first state to pass such legislation in 2009.

It can be difficult for people on Medicaid to find dentists who will treat them. Dentists say that's because the state-federal program doesn't pay them enough to cover their costs.

Just 37.9% of Wisconsin dentists work with Medicaid or the federal Children's Health Insurance Program, compared with 43% nationally, according to the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute. The state's Medicaid payments for

children are 33.6% of what dentists say they get paid from private insurance, compared with 61.4% nationally, the ADA institute says. For adults, it's 33% in the state and 53.3% nationally.

Other bills

Under the other bills Evers planned to sign, technical colleges can apply to the Legislature's joint finance committee for a share of the \$20 million to start or expand dental staff training programs.

Marquette University, which runs the state's only dental school, will get \$350,000 a year to support recruitment and training of rural dentistry students, and graduates who work in shortage areas for 18 months will get scholarships.

Dentists and hygienists will be able to work in states that share a licensing agreement. People with dental insurance can designate a specific dental provider, which should prevent the need for them to pay for care before getting reimbursed by insurance.

NTC receives international award

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) has been awarded an International Award in Lifelong Learning for Best Business and Industry Programming by the Learning Resources Network (LERN), the largest association in lifelong learning in the world.

“We are honored for this recognition by LERN,” said

Brad Gast, NTC dean of workforce training and professional development. “One of our college’s strategic goals is developing a skilled and talented workforce to support our local businesses. It is truly a privilege to serve our district communities workforce needs and be a catalyst for their continued success.”

NTC’s workforce training and professional development team helps meet business workforce needs through innovative, customized training and individualized consulting to ensure employees and businesses thrive. NTC is one of 6,000 colleges in North America to receive this recognition.

Jail Academy Graduate



Jail Deputy McCollum graduated from the Jail Academy at Northcentral Technical College after completing 200 hours of rigorous training. Congratulations! -SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Anderson promoted to Facilities Director

On January 22 Benjamin Anderson of Medford was promoted to Facilities Director of Prevail Bank. He fills the role held by Eunice Mayer in preparation of her retirement from the bank.

According to Kari Rappe, Prevail Bank Chief Information Officer / Project Manager, Anderson consistently demonstrated a 'can-do' attitude, exceptional organization, and problem-solution skills as Prevail Bank's Facilities Manager making him

a natural successor for the position. As Facilities Director he will use these aptitudes to oversee all of the Bank's properties and maintenance; recommend and prioritize larger projects, capital improvements, and remodels; in addition to the management of third-party vendors, contractors, facilities staff, and budget expenditures.

Anderson grew up in Merrill, WI. He's a [Northcentral Technical College](#) graduate and has lived in Medford since 2020. When he isn't working, Anderson and his wife enjoy hunting, camping, and spending time with family members.



Benjamin Anderson,
Facilities Director
Prevail Bank

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Antigo hosts Super Saturday chess tournament

SUBMITTED BY DANNA GABRIEL

ANTIGO — On Saturday, Feb. 10, the Antigo Community Chess Club partnered with the Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation to offer a Super Saturday Chess Tournament for youth to learn and practice the game of chess.

Twenty-seven students in grades 4-12 participated in this one-day event hosted at the Northcentral Technical College Antigo Campus.

Bob Patterson-Sumwalt, executive director of the Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation, led the morning session, teaching the basics of chess, strategy, mating patterns and other basic chess rules.

Then the fun began with students

practicing what they learned through five rounds of Swiss style competition.

“Chess teaches youth to problem-solve by improving critical thinking and not acting on the first thing that comes to mind. Chess improves their self-esteem as they work on improving and mastering new skills,” said Patterson-Sumwalt. “It gives a purpose to kids who are not in sports.”

Nathan Olmstead, parent of a chess player, traveled from Edgar, WI to participate in this event.

“It’s nice to have an event for kids who don’t play sports, something outside of athletics,” shared Olmstead. “Kids get to meet other other kids with similar interests.”

While there was winning and losing throughout the day, the camaraderie between students was strong. They accepted defeat, learned from their mistakes, and showed improvement in their gaming skills.

An awards ceremony ended the day with students awaiting their rank in the competition. While everyone went home with a medal, three players received top honors: 1st place — Wade Kohel, 2nd place — Micah Schultz, and 3rd place — Triston Griesse.

If you would like to learn more about future chess tournaments or how to get involved in our local chess club, contact Danna Gabriel, dmagabriel@gmail.com.



COURTESY DANNA GABRIEL

Logan Cleeremans and Sully Schwebler working toward a win!



COURTESY DANNA GABRIEL

Winners! — from left: Micah Schultz of Edgar; Wade Kohel of Edgar; and Triston Griesse of Antigo.

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ESports team back to state! Photo submitted

Esports at Barron High School continues to grow under co-advisors Jon Cerney and Trent Nelson. The student organization has around 50 student members and 25 of those compete in Wisconsin High School Esports Association events. BHS has added a new game for competition this year. In the fall, students competed in a 5-player Smash Bros league. The organization also added a JV Rocket League team and another Fortnite team. The Varsity Rocket League team, which qualified for the Winter State Championship for the first time last year, picked up where it left off. The squad finished the regular season with a 6-1 record, earning the fourth overall seed in the playoffs. The Golden Gamers cruised through both of their playoff games with decisive 3-0 victories over Bruce and Little Wolf. The lone returner from last year's second place state team is senior Preston Pedersen. Newcomers Bryce Kittelson and Chase Whiting, both sophomores, round out the varsity squad, with a little help from subs when Pedersen and Kittelson were gone for their winter sports. The BHS Esports team will travel to [Northcentral Technical College](#) in Wausau on Saturday, Feb. 24. Barron will take on top-seeded Valders in the state semifinals. Pictured is the state-bound team of (from left) Kittelson, Pedersen and Whiting.

Centergy announces 2024 Officers, Board of Directors



Sonnemann



Gast



Schuchardt

FOR HUB CITY TIMES

CENTRAL WISCONSIN -- Centergy, Inc., a nonprofit regional marketing and economic development organization, announces the 2024 Board of Directors and officers. The three newly-appointed members bring a wealth of diverse experiences and a shared commitment to driving economic growth and fostering prosperity throughout central Wisconsin.

Denise Sonnemann - Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MACCI)

With a background in community engagement, marketing, and public relations, Denise offers extensive experience and a solid foundation in business. Previously serving as the Executive Director of Main Street Marshfield, she collaborated closely with state, regional, and local stakeholders and organizations to enhance the community's well-being. Denise's deep-seated passion for community development and business, coupled with her adeptness in forging robust partnerships, positions her as a valuable asset for MACCI, both presently and in the years to come.

Each board member brings a unique perspective and a steadfast commitment to the mission, ensuring a well-rounded leadership team for Centergy.

Brad Gast - Northcentral Technical College, Dean of Workforce Training and Professional Development

Brad Gast has a

diverse background in both the business world and the educational realm, with experience in facility management, energy conservation, corporate training, and college faculty roles. In his role, Brad oversees a division that serves over 10,000 students and 500 businesses annually, earning recognition as the top training college in North America by LERN. Committed to community service, Brad's mission is to ensure the thriving success of every individual, business, and community through workforce training, professional development, and strategic planning initiatives.

Joe Schuchardt - Findorff, Director of North Central Operations

Joe Schuchardt has 20 years of experience in the field. Joe plays a pivotal role in the day-to-day oversight of construction management activities, handling tasks from preconstruction to project closeout. His expertise extends to notable projects such as the 25 West Main development in downtown Madison and multiple ventures for Sentry Insurance in Stevens Point. A proud alumnus of UW-Madison with a major in Construction Administration, Joe has dedicated 15 years of his career to Findorff. In his personal life, Joe is happily married to Kim, and together, they have raised three children named Marisa, Drew, and Claire.

Full 2024 Centergy Board of Directors

- Chair - Paul Fowler, Ph.D., Executive Director, Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology

- Vice Chair - Gautam Malik, CEO at Gamber-Johnson LLC

- Treasurer - Nick Faber, CPA, President/CEO at Simplicity Credit Union

- Secretary - Joe Schuchardt - Findorff, Director of North Central Operations

- James Matheson, Senior Vice President - Chief Strategy Officer, Aspirus

- Melinda Osterberg, Regional Economic Development Director, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

- Michael M. Smith, JD, Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel, Church Mutual Insurance Company

- Manny Vasquez, Vice President & Partner, Pfefferle Companies

- Brad Gast, Northcentral Technical College, Dean of Workforce Training and Professional Development

- Denise Sonnemann, Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Executive Director

Looking towards the future

Centergy's 2024 Board of Directors and officers are ready to embark on their new strategic direction while working collaboratively to grow central Wisconsin. The strategic focus on Talent Growth, Regional Advocacy, Business Development, and Partner Engagement will guide the board's actions as they strive to make a lasting impact on the economic landscape of the region.

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21

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Neillsville, Clark County Press

New generation graduates



Submitted photo

Northcentral Technical College announced the fall 2023 graduates from the Criminal Justice—Law Enforcement 720 Academy, which prepares learners to enter the workforce as police officers or deputy sheriffs in the state of Wisconsin. Graduates are able to demonstrate tactical skills, conduct investigations and manage emergencies. Among the graduates were Halle Fecker (front, second from right) and Easten Schultz (middle, fourth from left), both from Neillsville.



Campus Highlights

UW-LaCrosse December Grads List

The following area students completed degree requirements at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in December.

Thorp: Paige Rhyner, Bachelor of Science, Psychology Major, Highest Honors.

Northcentral Technical College Grads

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased to announce the following students were awarded diplomas during the fall 2023 term.

Tomahawk, Wis.: Jamie Kolarik.

Durand, Courier-Wedge

UW-Stout Teach Day gives 94 high school students a glimpse of possible career path

Seven undergraduate programs in the School of Education highlighted

Press Release: Feb. 19, 2024

Menomonie, Wis. — High school students who attended Teach Day at University of Wisconsin-Stout learned quickly that the teaching profession, like the university's other majors, is about doing.

Soon after arriving, the 94 students from 11 regional high schools were working on hands-on projects such as designing a billboard, writing a multigrade lesson plan and creating a public service announcement. UW-Stout's slogan Do More on Day One reflecting the applied learning focus became Do for One Day.

"Students got a taste of teaching and heard from UW-Stout students what it's like," said Deanna Schultz, associate dean and School of Education director. "There's such a huge need for teachers, a desperate need for fully licensed teachers. Teach Day helps build the teacher pipeline.

"It's a fun day. We've had students who leave saying, 'I can see myself at Stout,'" Schultz said of the biannual event that began three years ago.

In family and consumer sciences education, students were guided through a project by Professor Diane Klemme and several of her students. The visitors created two small Valentine's Day candy boxes out of paper, one for residents of Our House Senior Living in Menomonie and one to give to a friend.

"We were hoping to show

students the important skill of doing demonstrations in the classroom. Family and consumer sciences is a hands-on program, and future teachers will need to be able to do demonstrations in a classroom. We also wanted to connect service learning and giving back to the community," Klemme said.

In technology education, students created a public service announcement. "This allowed them to know what it was like doing a project as a teacher," Instructor Barb Bauer said. "It also allowed them to work with other disciplines to help them understand we all have the same goals as teachers."

In early childhood education, students made little "critters" out of craft materials and discussed lesson plans for how the animals could be used to teach children from prekindergarten to second grade.

They also visited the Child and Family Study Center and observed teachers working with infants and toddlers. Kennedy Reckmann, a junior from Lake City, Minn., an early childhood education major, led one of the tours to observation rooms.

Reckmann explained how she and other UW-Stout students use the rooms to "get an open view of what children are actually doing." She is completing her prestudent teaching this semester with 4-year-olds at the center.

From 15 to 20 UW-Stout

students in education programs supported Teach Day by leading interactive sessions.

Teachers and advisers accompanied the high school contingents, including Amanda Van Oosten, a family and consumer sciences teacher at Wausau West High School. She brought 24 students who were interested in a variety of teaching programs.

"Students have really enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the day, hearing from some of the Stout students and getting a real feel for the campus," Van Oosten said.

"They get to see other students interested in what they're interested in and put a face to the major," she added.

Van Oosten teaches an Aspiring Educators class, in which students can dual-enroll and earn college credit at [Northcentral Technical College](#). She also helps with the student chapter of Educators Rising.

Students were greeted by and received an overview of the day from Schultz and Professor Debbie Stanislawski. They also met with directors of the seven education undergraduate programs: Seth Dutter, applied mathematics and computer science, with a math education concentration Ann Carlisle, art education.

Lindsay Barnhart, early childhood education. Klemme, family and consumer sciences education. Stanislawski, marketing and business education Kevin Mason, special education

and Barb Bauer, technology education

Along with the Bachelor of Science programs, UW-Stout offers five graduate programs in education, five certificates and three certifications.

Teach Day drew mostly juniors and seniors. School districts represented were: Altoona, Augusta, Cameron, Chippewa Falls, Elk River, Minn., Gilmanston, Greenwood, La Crosse Logan, Loyal, River Falls and Wausau West.

Holly Vang, a senior from Wausau West, attended Teach Day for early childhood education in part because she is taking a Young Adult Education course and sees herself someday interacting with young children in her career in a teaching-related field. "I see that teaching the next generation is very important. I really have respect for people who teach," said Vang.

The day wrapped up with nine UW-Stout education majors answering questions from the high school students about life as a student at UW-Stout. They talked about the hands-on nature of the programs, opportunities to get involved on campus, small class sizes, close connections to professors, the convenience of campus and flexible class schedules compared to high school.

Along with the School of Education, Teach Day was supported by Enrollment and Strategic Initiatives, the Admissions Office, and Continuing Education and Confer-



Ann Carlisle, director of UW-Stout's art education undergraduate program, speaks to high school students during Teach Day.



Barb Bauer, technology education program director, talks with a high school student during Teach Day.

ences.

UW-Stout is Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, with a focus on applied learning,

collaboration with business and industry, and career outcomes. Learn more via the FOCUS2030 strategic plan.

COLLEGE NEWS

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Kosmer graduates UW Oshkosh

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh announced that Mikayla Kosmer, of Phillips, participated in the 59th midyear commencement on Dec. 16, 2023, after successful completion of a Bachelor of Science degree in education, elementary and middle school education from the College of Education and Human Services.

UW-La Crosse Fall 2023 graduate

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse announced the names of area students who were among the Fall semester graduates in December. The students include:

Josi Orr, Fifield, bachelor of science, exercise and sport science major, exercise science — pre-professional track.

Alyssa Schellin, Ogema, associate of arts, liberal arts.

Jessica Roush, Phillips, bachelor of science, exercise and sport science major, exercise science — pre-professional track, highest honors.

NTC Summer 2023 graduates

Northcentral Technical College

announced that six area residents are among the students who were awarded diplomas following the Summer 2023 term. The students include Alison Smith, Park Falls; Aaron Matyka, Rib Lake; and Dylan Phillips, Westboro.

NTC Fall 2023 graduates

Northcentral Technical College

announced the following area students among those awarded diplomas at the conclusion of the fall 2023 term. The area students include Grace Wegner, Butternut; Elizabeth Cook, Catawba; Gina Beil,

Glidden; Julie Olsen, Hawkins; Riley Blomberg and Carter Scheithauer, Ogema; Monica Schmidt, Park Falls; Amie Burnis, Dawn Carlson, Jacob Dale, Alyssa Mueller, Rebekah Patrick, Courtney Shipley and Nikki Shipley, Phillips; Jaylen Leonhard, Rib Lake; and Melinda Vassar, Tripoli.

Mineau on UW-Platteville chancellor's list

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announced that Shea Mineau, of Butternut, a criminal justice major, was named to the chancellor's list, which honors full time students who achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA for fall semester 2023. The GPA also qualifies Mineau for the semester high honors dean's for a 3.75 GPA and above and the dean's list for a 3.50 GPA or higher.

NTC president's list

Northcentral Technical College

announced the president's list for outstanding academic achievement for the fall 2023 term. The list is of full time post-secondary students who earn a 3.75 GPA or above.

Area students include Grace Wegner, Butternut; Nathan Rymarkiewicz, Catawba; Olivia Sylvester, Fifield; Jocelyn Stovall, Glidden; Julie Olsen, Hawkins; Riley Blomberg and Carter Scheithauer, Ogema; Dominic Cain, Jacob Dale, Nicole Hilgart, Aiden Miesbauer, Jonathan Pritzl, Josh Pritzl, Kramah Shomila and Dixie Weidman, Park Falls; Cadin Adams, Dawn Carlson, Zachary Dombrowski, Bradley Kerner, Courtney Krawczyk, Ethan Michek, Alyssa Mueller, Jason Mulligan and Braden Yanich, Phillips; Tammy Fisher, Prentice; Elliot Britz, Isabella Fallos, Aaron Matyka, Sheila Schneider and Preston Walters, Rib Lake.

COLLEGE *Notes*

UW-La Crosse

The following area student completed degree requirements at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in December. Students earning degrees in December include: **Paige Rhyner**, Thorp, Bachelor of Science, Psychology Major, Highest Honors

UW-Platteville

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its Dean's List, honoring those full-time students who earned high honors in the fall 2023 semester.

Students from this area on the Dean's List include: **Ross Gulcynski**, Thorp, Fine Arts BFA, UW-Platteville

**Northcentral
Technical
College**

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased

to announce the following students were awarded diplomas during the fall 2023 term:

Abbotsford: Dylan Price, Jeanne Dunow, Jordy Castaneda, Khiem Tran

Colby: Elizabeth Dyer, Logan Halverson, Olivia Vollrath

Curtiss: Crystal Nowak, Paige Fleischman

Dorchester: Melissa Mulderink, Nicole Brice, Susan Warner

Owen: Connor Simington, Rebecca Potocnik

Thorp: Jenefier Rogus, Matthew Rogus

Withee: Dakota Shelton, Hannah Quante

NTC Fall 2023 President's List for Outstanding Academic Achievement

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased to

announce the President's List for outstanding academic achievement for the fall 2023 term. The following students enrolled in a post-secondary program, earned a 3.75 grade point average or above and successfully completed a minimum of six

Curtiss: Crystal Nowak

Dorchester: Chase Klemetson, Courtney Block, Michaela Blume, Nicole Brice

Greenwood: Brett Gruhlke, Sara Bratcher

Loyal: Brittney Jensen, Eddie Macias-Rivera, Vaughn Zettler

Owen: Ashley Wolfert, Connor Simington, Iva Schuette, Kylie Arndt, Rebecca Potocnik

Withee: Amy Olson, Latiasha Penney



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Medford, The Star News

National FFA WEEK
FEBRUARY 17-24, 2024



President Corinne Schroeder
Senior

What is your favorite thing about FFA? Traveling to all the FFA events and meeting new people.

What are your future plans? To become a Veterinary Technician.



Vice President Hudson Brost
Senior

What is your favorite thing about FFA? To meet community members that do farm or the ones who have retired.

What are your future plans? To go to [NTC](#) for the Precision Agriculture Equipment Technician Program.



Treasurer Hailey Yunek
Sophomore

What is your favorite thing about FFA? Doing the competitions. I did Discussion Meet at the District Contest, and hope to do Dairy Judging or Dairy Showmanship this Spring! I enjoy showing dairy, too!



Secretary Kayelee Lindahl
Sophomore

What is your favorite thing about FFA? That FFA is like a big FFAmily (family).

What are your future plans? To go to UW-Madison and study Veterinary Science.



Reporter Autumn Cooley
Sophomore

What is your favorite thing about FFA? Meeting new people and doing all the things for FFA and the community.

What are your future plans? Going to [NTC](#) for Business and Agriculture. Hoping to carry on the family tradition running Krug's Northwoods Game Birds.



Parliamentarian Chance Berwald
Junior

What is your favorite thing about FFA? Attending events and seeing friends while trying new things.

What are your future plans? Going to SDSU for Agriculture Systems Technology



Historian Zoe Ulrich
Sophomore

What is your favorite thing about FFA? Being presented with all the different opportunities.

What are your future plans? Completing Supervised Agricultural Experiences (S.A.E.) and submitting them to the state as a Proficiency Award. I hope to run for a state FFA Officer someday!



Medford Area Senior High School FFA advisors agriculture teachers Lisa Kopp and Casey Anderson.

Argyle, Pecatonica Valley Leader

Rep. Novak Welcomes New Intern Cole Miller



MADISON- Representative Todd Novak (Dodgeville) is pleased to announce the addition of a new intern to his legislative office in Madison. Cole Miller (Dodgeville) has joined Rep. Novak's office as an intern and will be working in the office on constituent work, scheduling, and learning the legislative process.

"I am excited to welcome Cole to the Capitol as our intern," said Novak. "I look forward to working with Cole. He will be a great addition to my office. My office will provide him with a supportive environment to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed."

Cole is currently a student at **Northcentral Technical College** in Wausau. Cole is pursuing an associate's degree in paralegal studies. Cole is the son of Carrie Miller and the late Matt Miller. He graduated from Dodgeville High School in 2021. Carrie is currently a sales district leader for American Family Insurance.

"Cole will have an opportunity to gain hands-on experiences at the Capitol and will work closely with my staff to develop skills and contribute to the success of my office," said Novak.

Rep. Novak can be reached at (608) 266-7502 or by email at Rep.Novak@legis.wisconsin.gov. Additional Information on Rep. Novak can be found on his website, RepNovak.com.

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COURTESY MICHELLE KNAPKAVAGE

Seniors at Antigo High School last week.

Class of 2024 weigh in on post-graduation prospects

DANNY SPATCHEK

dspatchek@antigojournal.com

ANTIGO — More Antigo High School graduates in the Class of 2024 will enter the workforce and slightly fewer will seek higher education immediately following graduation than in previous years, according to survey results provided to the Antigo Journal by the school's counseling department.

In 2024, 34 percent of seniors are reporting plans to enter the workforce following graduation. The

percentage of those entering the workforce remained steady for the classes of 2021 and 2022 at roughly 10 percent before rising to 26 percent for the class of 2023. The percentage of students planning to seek higher education at one, two, or four-year universities dipped just slightly, meanwhile, from 66 percent in 2021 to 57 percent in 2024.

The survey results — which at a cursory glance concur with nationwide reports in recent years of high school graduates entering

the workforce in lieu of college at higher rates — by no means represent hard data. The breakdown is simply based on conversations between 12th graders and counselors at Antigo High over the past four years.

Elizabeth Frey-Neufeld, the counselor who has overseen this year's group of seniors, made no conclusions about the results, but commented on myriad factors that may impact graduates' plans.

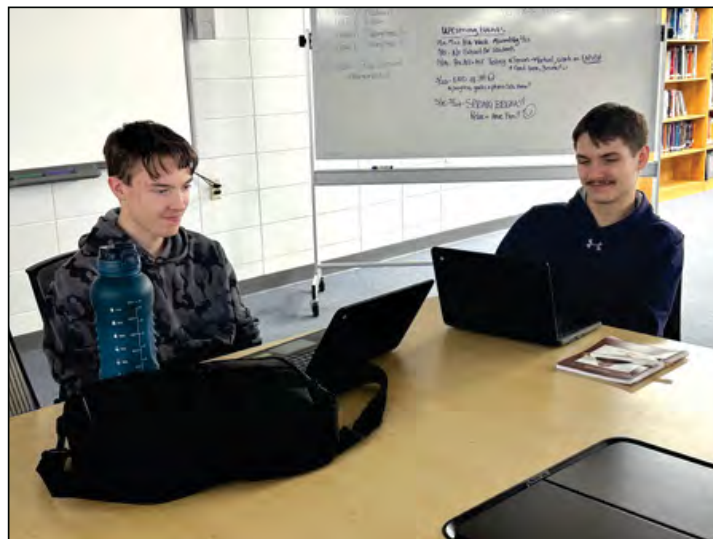
More **GRADS** | **A2**

Grads/_{from A1}

“Sometimes students make selections on their next step based on what their friends are doing,” she said. “Sometimes they make selections based on what their family encourages. When some of the instructors speak to the future and give them those future talks, some departments do it better than others. I think that maybe that relates to the trends.

“I would say I’ve been very impressed with the technical school presentations to counselors this year — the program offerings that they have are growing, increasing, expanding. There’s been some news coverage of university struggles, so I think maybe that has some bearing on some choices nowadays too.”

The Antigo Journal spoke to a number of



COURTESY MICHELLE KNAPKAVAGE

Seniors at Antigo High School last week.

outgoing seniors about their future plans, as well as their general perceptions of the post-graduation landscape.

The vast majority of students reported plans to pursue some manner of higher education, including Lucy Slominski, who will attend UW-Madison for chemical engineering next fall. While she will head to a four-year university, Slominski said she

feels that her generation sees not attending college as somewhat destigmatized.

“I think it’s a little bit of a normalized thing now,” Slominski said. “Not that people couldn’t not go to college before, but now I think you hear a lot more from teachers or your adults around you saying, ‘Oh, you don’t have to go to college. If there’s a career path that interests you that’s

not college, don’t worry about it — it’s normal not to go to college.’

“When I talk to my brother — he graduated like 15 years ago — most of the kids in his class wanted to go to college. It wasn’t as normal for kids to not go to college then I feel like. Or now, if you ask somebody if they’re going to college or not, I feel like you’d be less judged to say, ‘No, I’m not going to college. I’m going into the workforce.’ It’s just more of a normal thing.”

Aiden Anderson said he may eventually go to a four year institution like UW-Stevens Point for a field like music or drama in the distant future. But like three percent of his fellow seniors, he instead opted to at least begin his life after Antigo High in the military.

More **GRADS** | **A3**

Antigo Daily Journal
Grads/ from A2

"I know a lot of kids would rather go straight into the workforce. My thought process was I didn't want to make a decision right away and have to deal with whatever decision I made as a kid for a career the rest of my life," said Anderson, who will join the marines upon graduation. "I didn't want to get all these student loans, and then I have to pay them off until I'm 40 because I wanted to do a career that ended up not happening."

Though she also mentioned the looming concern of student debt, Ava Tatro will go to UW-Stevens Point immediately — she plans to start the university's nursing program in the Fall.

"College prices are outrageous these days. And you always hear stuff about debt and you're always going to be in debt all your life after college and stuff and you've got to keep paying it off, so I think people are going to start to take that into consideration... I thought about going to a tech just to help myself out in the long run and my family.



Seniors at Antigo High School last week.

But I was like, 'No, I'll just go to college,'" she laughed.

One student who did plan to immediately enter the workforce was Devin Breitfeldt — he said he will likely get a job running heavy equipment, work he has done for a number of years already on his grandparents' farm.

"I've been thinking about Northeast Asphalt — they have an office in Antigo. I've been considering construction jobs too," Breitfeldt said. "I've just never really got too much into school because a lot of it

is not stuff I'll use in my future."

Several students spoke about the impact the makeup of the community and high school have on local students' career decisions.

"We have a whole section of the building just dedicated to CTE (career and technical education) programs and classes of that sort," said Amanda Wade, who will attend UW-Green Bay for computer engineering. "When you're a freshman you have something called freshman rotation, and you get introduced to all those classes



COURTESY MICHELLE KNAPKAVAGE

down there. I've heard a lot of kids saying they're just going to go into autos or metals or whatever. So they get introduced to those classes and they have the opportunity to take them when they're sophomores. So they say, 'Oh, this is really cool, I want to do this.' And they don't turn back."

Hunter Leitermann, in a somewhat different vein, was swayed in his original plan to study auto mechanics by feelings that the industry's possible shift to electric vehicles would make it unsuitable to him. He

will study business management and digital marketing at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau instead, but nonetheless concurred with Wade's assessment that the high school's CTE wing leads many students towards technical fields.

"Our technical education program here at Antigo High School is very diverse. We have I think it's five different programs that have student-run businesses. We operate those classes as businesses to help the community. A lot of the people I know are in those. It's such a big influence for everyone here because such a big portion of our school is dedicated to those technical education areas. I feel like it has a big impact on a lot of the people that go here," he said. "But we can always use more people in trades, because it's not like those areas are going to go away. With technology these days, obviously some of those jobs are done by robots, but I still feel like those fields are going to need people to run those machines."

Lexi Klusmann, who will study biology at

UW-La Crosse, said she doubts the notion that fewer area students are going to college than in the past.

"Most of my friends that I know are applying or getting into college, making an effort," Klusmann said. "Or even if it's just a tech school, I would still consider that going to college, getting a higher education. I don't think anything has changed, but I feel like they push it pretty hard. Because there's always new opportunities, especially in the counseling office like, 'Oh, we have a recruiter from Green Bay coming — come talk if you're interested,' and they have a whole scholarship page, so they just talk about it a lot."

Frey-Neufeld again emphasized that it's difficult to make assumptions based on tabulations made following mere conversations with departing seniors.

"It's hard to know because the kid might still be questioning too," she said. "Take it from someone who started out pre-pharmacy and now is a school counselor: you never know what your path is going to be like."

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Queen's Gambit, Checkmates, and Grandmasters on display at Antigo's Super Saturday Chess Tournament

DANNA GABRIEL

On Saturday, February 10, the Antigo Community Chess Club partnered with the Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation to offer a Super Saturday Chess Tournament for youth to learn and practice the game of chess. Twenty-seven 4th - 12th grade students participated in this one-day event hosted at Northcentral Technical College-Antigo Campus.

Bob Patterson-Sumwalt, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation led the morning session teaching the basics of chess, strategy, mating patterns and other basic chess rules.



Then the fun began with students practicing what they learned through 5 rounds of Swiss style competition. "Chess teaches youth to problem solve by improving critical thinking and not acting on the first thing that comes to mind. Chess improves their self-esteem as they work on improving and mastering new skills," says Patterson-Sumwalt, "It gives a purpose to kids who are not in sports."

Nathan Olmstead, parent of a chess player, traveled from Edgar, WI to participate in this event. "It's nice to have an event for kids who don't play sports, something outside of athletics," shared Olmstead, "kids get to meet other other kids with similar interests."

While there was winning and losing throughout the day, the camaraderie between students was strong. They accepted defeat, learned from their mistakes, and showed improvement in their gaming skills.

An awards ceremony ended the day with students awaiting their rank in the competition. While everyone went home with a medal, 3 players received top honors: 1st place - Wade Kohel, 2nd place - Micah Schultz, and 3rd place - Triston Griesse.

If you would like to learn more about future chess tournaments or how to get involved in our local chess club, contact Danna Gabriel, dmatgabriel@gmail.com.



Soup-A-Rama


Sunday, March 10
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
W18995 First St, Aniwa, WI

Come enjoy some delicious homemade soups:
Chili • Chicken Dumpling • Vegetable Beef • Pea
• Cheesy Broccoli

Also serving bread, cheese,
crackers and dessert
Yummy!

Serving 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.

Children 6 to 12	\$5.00
Adults	\$10.00





NTC brings technology resources to the community

ADVERTORIAL CONTENT

The **Northcentral Technical College (NTC)**

- Phillips campus is helping to meet the community's technological needs by providing a place to access reliable, high-speed internet.

More than 250 people utilized the Community Technology Center at the Phillips campus throughout 2023, demonstrating a strong need in the area for the services provided.

"The public is very grateful for our free faxing services and free internet access," said Kari Lazars, regional campus director at **NTC**. "We have heard that we are a one stop technology center where they can get questions answered,

copies made, faxes sent and use our high-speed internet."

The Community Technology Center features an internet cafe that provides free, reliable, high-speed internet. Private offices and rooms can be reserved daily, weekly, or monthly for a nominal fee. A remote worker package is also available for those looking for secure office space with 24-hour access.

When people began to return to campus after the COVID-19 pandemic, **NTC** President Jeannie Worden, Ed.D, had a vision to expand internet access to rural communities.

"The pandemic highlighted the lack of high-

SEE **COMMUNITY**, 11



Phillips, Price County Review

FROM PAGE 7

Community

speed internet,” Lazars said. “Broadband access was a significant issue for everyone, especially for our rural, regional campuses.”

Dr. Worden created a subcommittee of NTC staff to learn more about

communities’ needs for internet access. Focus groups and surveys of local communities, including schools, businesses, community groups and residents, revealed there were very few community spaces that allowed public access to high-speed internet. Libraries or restaurants were the only options in some

communities, and they often had restrictions or required users to be customers. Public access to printing, copying and faxing was also very limited.

There was also a need for affordable, private office spaces for remote workers. Because so many people began working remotely dur-

ing the pandemic, they needed private spaces that provided reliable internet access.

NTC’s Antigo and Phillips campuses were chosen to pilot Community Technology Centers in 2022. The success of these centers led to expansion in 2023, and technology centers can now be found at the Med-

ford, Spencer and Wittenberg campuses.

The technology centers are open to the community during regularly scheduled hours for each campus. The Phillips campus is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday. When the campus is closed, Wi-

Fi can still be used from the parking lot to provide 24/7 access to reliable internet.

To learn more about the Community Technology Center or fill out a rental request form, visit www.ntc.edu/about/locations-facilities/community-technology-centers.

Northcentral Technical College announces Fall 2023 graduates

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased to announce the following students were awarded diplomas during the fall 2023 term:

Medford: Cody Ewan, Cole Dassow, Desirae Schlais, Jake Dassow, Jennifer Pester, Jeremia Cole, Jordaan Clark, Kaelee Rudolph, Kiersten Crass, Matthew Gogal, Megan Morschauser, Savana Radtke, Shelby Prasnicky, Wheeler Rogers

Rib Lake: Jaylen Leonhard

Stetsonville: Nicholas Kowalski

Ogema: Carter Scheithauer, Riley Blomberg

Withee: Dakota Shelton, Hannah Quante

Abbotsford: Dylan Price, Jeanne Dunow, Jordy Castaneda, Khiem Tran

Athens: Alex Erickson, Barbara Worzalla, Donna Decker, Janet Alvarez, Rebecka Hein, Sherry Gutknecht

Catawba: Elizabeth Cook

Colby: Elizabeth Dyer, Logan Halverson, Olivia Vollrath

Curtiss: Crystal Nowak, Paige Fleischman

Dorchester: Melissa Mulderink, Nicole Brice, Susan Warner

Edgar: Chelsea King, Devanne Berry, Devin Jacobs, Jordan Knoll, Kaden Goodwin, Kelsey Fons, Kloie Radke,

Payton Thornton, Stephanie Hannemann, Tammy LaBarge

Marathon: Amy Converse, Cheryl Rainville, Denise Grondin, Kaci Sessions, Madison Fons, Noah Streveler

Stratford: Abbie Knauf, Alex Heiden, Autumm Oertel, Delaney Dennee, Halle Fecker, Kaedyn Dahl, Kenidi Palmer

NTC announces summer 2023 grads

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased to announce the following students were awarded diplomas during the Summer 2023 term:

Medford, Wis.: Cody Miller, Desirae Schlais, Zoey Neumann

Rib Lake, Wis.: Aaron Matyka

Westboro, Wis.: Dylan Phillips

Withee, Wis.: Hannah Quante

Athens, Wis.: Autumn Westfall

Colby, Wis.: Hunter Fecker

Marathon, Wis.: Hector Pintor, Payton Reidinger

Stratford, Wis.: Autumm Oertel, Grace Greenberg, Hailey Stoychoff

Medford, The Star News

NTC announces fall 2023 President's List for outstanding academic achievement

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased to announce the President's List for outstanding academic achievement for the fall 2023 term. The following students enrolled in a post-secondary program, earned a 3.75 grade point average or above and successfully completed a minimum of six credits during the fall term.

Medford: Cole Dassow, Daniele Schimmels, Dave Shereda, Desirae Schlais, Jake Dassow, Jennifer Pester, Jeremia Cole, Jordaan Clark, Karlee Westrich, Kayla Szydel, Kellen Heier, Kylee Koontz, Logan Bucki, Makayla Schultz, MaKenna Miller, Megan Morschauser, Montanna Marlett, Mya Serrano, Samantha Barnes, Shannon Budimljia, Sierra Stahnke

Rib Lake: Aaron Matyka, Elliot Britz, Isabella Fallos, Preston Walters, Sheila Schneider

Stetsonville: Julian Roffers, Marshall Matson

Westboro: Trisha Dallmann

Abbotsford: Christian Roy Taves Barreto, Dylan Price, Jordy Castaneda, Judith Ramirez-Gutierrez, Khiem Tran, Lillian Graun, Maricruz Ochoa Garcia, Sherri Malchow

Athens: Andrew Frick, Anna Nowicki, Anthony Vogel, Braden Kapitz, Brooke Rogaczewski, Celina Ellenbecker, Cody Murkowski, Jennifer Brusky, Kenesha Schug, Logan Ebben, Makenna Sebold, Piper Wagner, Rebecka Hein, Samantha Daniels, Sherry Gutknecht

Catawba: Nathan Rymarkiewicz

Colby: Danielle Strey, Elizabeth Dyer, Jayden Gregory, Kaylee Podevels, Lindsey Mielke, Olivia Vollrath

Curtiss: Crystal Nowak

Dorchester: Chase Klemetson, Courtney Block, Michaela Blume, Nicole Brice

Edgar: Ashley Sterzinger, Dalaney Myszk, Jacqueline Martin, Jordan Knoll, Nicole Berg, Owen Baumann, Parker Pietrowski, Sarah Olson, Sondra Pilgrim, Stephanie Hannemann

Hawkins: Julie Olsen

Marathon: Amy Converse, Austin Wood, Bridget Salber, Caroline Fritz, Cooper Hoeksema, Debra White, Denise Grondin, Ella Altfillisch, Ethan Gacke, Jacob Sommers, Jasmin Gonzalez Mujica, Kyle Rauen, Lily Gage, Lindsey Larson, Madisyn Lang, Noah Streveler, Tatiana Her

Thorp: Alyssa Rycerz, Jenefier Rogus, Matthew Rogus

Ogema: Carter Scheithauer, Riley Blomberg

Owen: Ashley Wolfert, Connor Simington, Iva Schuette, Kylie Arndt, Rebecca Potocnik

Prentice: Tammy Fisher

Summer 2023 President's List

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) is pleased to announce the President's List for outstanding academic achievement for the summer 2023 term. The following students enrolled in a post-secondary program, earned a 3.75 grade point average or above and successfully completed a minimum of six credits during the fall term.

Medford: Desirae Schlais, Hannah Cran, Kylee Koontz, Matthew Gogal, Molly Kapfhamer

Athens: Autumn Westfall

Edgar: Barbara Mohr, Chelsea King

Marathon: Heidi Henrichs

Rib Lake: Aaron Matyka, Isabella Fallos

Stratford: Jessica Grose

Westboro: Dylan Phillips



UWSP, NTC sign partnership on technology management degree program



UWSP and NTC partner for degree program

By [Alicia Schumacher](#) and [Tom Zurawski](#)

Published: Feb. 27, 2024 at 8:34 PM CST

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAW) - A major manufacturer in Marathon County is excited about a new partnership between [Northcentral Technical College](#) and UW-Sevens Point.

Greenheck Group believes this is the future of manufacturing technology and it will keep people close to home. Automation and manufacturing education is reaching a new level. With a few signatures, new knowledge, and opportunities are available to the community.

"It's great to be able to stay close to home as well and keep your talent local," Greenheck employee Jon Kraft said.

Kraft is considering the new Technology Management degree through [NTC](#) and UWSP, "That would give me more opportunity within Greenheck to move into management or to look at different positions if needed."

Students in four different associate degrees at [NTC](#) can earn credits for a bachelor's degree at UWSP. The partnership is designed to help local companies by educating workers who need a flexible course schedule.

“Greenheck and other manufacturers in our area have indicated that they needed a bachelor’s degree pathway for their incumbent workforce and actually their new workforce,” President of NTC Jeannie Worden said.

Current students and alumni of Mechanical Design Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Electromechanical Technology, and Automation Systems Technology are eligible to get 56 to 65 credits when they enroll at UWSP.

UWSP Chancellor Thomas Gibson shared, “We’re working very closely to deliver education to the region and certainly we’re committed to this notion of expanding access to higher education for all.”

With the advancement of automation and technology, new education like this is only the beginning of a thriving field. Extra credits will be available through online courses and at UWSP-Wausau

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UWSP and NTC sign partnership for technology management degree program

Feb 27, 2024 Updated Feb 27, 2024 0



SCHOFIELD, Wis.(WAOW)-- UWSP and NTC hosted an event to announce a new partnership together -- allowing students at NTC to earn a bachelor's degree in several tech fields.

Administrators from both schools met at Greenheck in Wausau to sign the agreement for those that complete the credit equivalent at NTC will gain entry at UW-Stevens Point.

NTC majors include: mechanical design engineering technology , manufacturing engineering technology, electromechanical technology and automation systems technology.

Jeannie Worden is the president at the NTC and she explains that this will lead to more job opportunities for employers and students.

"Greenheck is one the major employers in our community, and Greenheck will hire these people once they graduate," said Worden. Its helping them fill them fill their workforce shortages and helping them advance,"

The new program is scheduled to launch in the 2024 Fall Semester.

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Expanded wood science facility builds excellence in Antigo

Northcentral Technical College features cutting-edge classes, industry training at regional campus

by Matthew Day 15 hrs ago



Logan Wells said NTC's 27,000-square-foot wood lab is unlike any others in the area.

Submitted Photo

ANTIGO – “I wouldn’t have wanted to work here if it were the ‘Wood Technology Center of Mediocrity,’” Logan Wells, the program director and a faculty member of [Northcentral Technical College’s \(NTC\)](#) wood science program, said.

The program is based out of [NTC’s](#) regional campus in Antigo, at what Wells said is the aptly named Wood Technology Center of Excellence.

“We live up to that name, or strive to, every day when we come to work here – both students and faculty,” he said.

Per **NTC's** website (ntc.edu), the facility has 27,000 square feet devoted to its wood science program, which encompasses a two-year associate's degree, a one-year technical diploma, specialized certificates and numerous continuing education classes and industry training courses.

“What does ‘wood science’ mean?” Wells said. “A lot of people think of their high school wood shop and sanding and cutting boards or making something – but we focus on the entire supply chain from the minute that tree is cut down to making and mass-producing finished products. It's a cool program, and it goes a lot further than just building that birdhouse.”

From forestry to industry

Wells said he's now in his third year as a wood science instructor at **NTC** and oversees all aspects of the coursework.

He said he was interested in woodworking and forestry from a young age – even starting a portable sawmill business in his teens that helped pay for his forest science degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

From his subsequent master's degree in forestry from Purdue to managing a hardwood sawmill, to working as a forest products specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wells said his fascination with wood properties continually grew deeper.

“Why do we use white oak for bourbon and whisky barrels, wine barrels?” he said. “And why do we use hickory for axe handles, but not shovel handles? It's a wood properties thing.”

Wells said he was able to learn and appreciate the entire lifecycle of wood products from forest management, harvesting lumber, grading and drying boards, building products and even marketing.

He said his connections throughout his educational and career experiences led to his current position at **NTC**, which he said allows him to teach about all facets of the industry.

“The diversity of our program is truly spectacular,” he said. “It's not just one area of the industry people are going into.”

NTC's wood science program, Wells said, is unique in the way it starts with raw material in a sawmill and follows through to finished wood products.

“There are not many other wood manufacturing programs like ours that cover that entire supply chain,” he said. “In fact, we're the only two-year associate's degree program in the country that teaches these subjects.”

Wells said the variety and depth of the different wood science credentials offer ideal options for students whether or not they've decided on a specific area to pursue.

The breadth of the associate's degree program, he said, makes it a perfect fit for some students, citing one in particular.

Wells said the student didn't know exactly what she wanted to do but liked this program because there were so many different career path options in this field.

"So, if she wants to be on the primary side, turning logs into lumber or raw material products, she can do that," he said. "If she wants to be in more of a sales, customer support role, she can go that route or marketing, or if she wants to make finished products and look at running a CNC router."

Because of this broad range, Wells said, the programs utilize creativity, people skills, business strategy, science and math.

He said the common interest shared by virtually all wood science students, though, is the love of working with their hands.

For learners who have honed in on a more specialized topic, Wells said, certificates may be a more appropriate choice.

"Think of (certificates) as a concentration with two to four classes that focus on one area of the industry a student wants to learn and explore for a career path," he said. "Those can range from as little as four weeks to as long as a semester."

Some of these curricula, Wells said, include moulder set-up and knife grinding, log and lumber grading and scaling, fundamental and advanced furniture building and industrial wood manufacturing, where he said students make "not just one nightstand, but semi-truck loads of nightstands."

Wells said this coursework is developed with an advisory board consisting of local businesses knowledgeable of the skills, machines and software most relevant to current operations and job openings.

One example of corroborating the board's recommendations, he said, is the way NTC's course on kiln drying – removing water from recently cut lumber – has routinely been cited as "by far the best in the country" by industry professionals.

He said saw filing – sharpening, maintaining and repairing industrial wood saws – was another niche area of focus the board suggested.

"(Representatives of the) industry came to our program and NTC and said 'saw filers are retiring, we don't have enough young people coming into this and we've got to train (workers) before we lose this knowledge base,'" he said.

As a result, Wells said the college began offering training on band saw filing – a four-week course that draws enrollment from students all over the country.

The success of that training, Wells said, led to NTC renovating more than 1,500 more square feet of lab space for the Wood Technology Center of Excellence to offer circular saw filing.

He said this training is set to commence this fall.

An even larger in-progress expansion, Wells said, is a new, approximately 10,000-square-foot training sawmill.

He said the mill is being built in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and is set to open in 2025.

“We haven’t had the equipment to demonstrate industrial lumber manufacturing, and with this partnership, we’re able to build a state-of-the-art training mill,” he said, “Which is going to be phenomenal for our industry – not just for Wisconsin but across the country.”

Going with the grain

Though the wood science program aims to accommodate industry training needs nationwide and beyond, Wells said, the curricula offered at NTC is above all crafted with the local community in mind.

He said the college understands when residents of the region pursue wood-related employment rather than a degree, and NTC “wants to support them in that career path” regardless.

“Anybody who wants jobs in this industry is going to have multiple job offers,” he said. “We want to be here where they can up-skill and get that professional development training when they need it.”

Kelsi Seubert, manager of marketing and public relations at NTC, said students who choose the two- or one-year wood science credentials benefit from the programs’ relatively small cohorts.

“If you think about the students who are interested in continuing their education or beginning a full-time program, they are going to get passionate one-on-one support they’re not going to get elsewhere,” Seubert said.

Wells said other ways NTC has leveraged the Wood Technology Center of Excellence to serve the community include offering flexible class schedules and hosting career and college events for area adults and high school students.

He also said the coursework has been particularly well received by military veterans.

Another way the program gives back, Wells said, is by donating the wood products created by students, such as flooring and cabinet doors, to local schools and charities.

Perhaps the most popular way [NTC](#) benefits the community, Wells said, is the variety of non-credit courses offered for community members.

For those looking to acquire or brush up on woodworking skills, he said, classes like spoon carving, bowl turning and furniture making are in high demand.

Beyond the boost his curricula provides the Antigo area, Wells said he relishes the opportunity to share his wisdom and lifelong passion for trees.

“Trees are beautiful, and using trees provides this incentive to keep growing trees,” he said. “In Wisconsin, we grow more trees than we harvest by far – it’s like two to one – so the beauty of this industry is it’s allowing us to sustainably manage forests, as well as provide beautiful wildlife habitat, clean oxygen and drinking water. When you can tie in the beauty of the way the natural resource grows, and then all the beautiful things we can make with it here, we have the best manufacturing in the world, as far as I’m concerned, with our technologies, innovation and environmental friendliness. This program focuses on all those beautiful things.”

Learn more about [Northcentral Technical College’s](#) wood science programs, classes and events at [NTC.edu](#).

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Schuette Metals, C-Tech lend an arm to local tech education

Through a grant, local contributions, Wausau West High School was able to purchase a robotic arm

by Jerry Rhoden Feb 5, 2024



Theran Peterson, a tech ed instructor at Wausau West, demonstrates some of the new technology acquired by the school.

Jerry Rhoden Photo

WAUSAU – The helping hand being sought by manufacturers to fill gaping job openings may be attached to a robotic arm.

That's the latest addition to the technical education department at Wausau West High School – brought to reality through a partnership with local manufacturers.

A combination of \$50,000 in contributions from Schuette Metals and C-Tech Manufacturing, along with a \$30,000 state grant, enabled the school to acquire a FANUC robotic arm, a Skill Boss training system and a programmable logic controller (PLC).

“We value our partners,” Jon Winter, the district’s tech ed coordinator, said. “They allowed us to apply for a grant to bring automation and robotics into our program.”

Winter said the school has been building on aspects of its technical education for years, aiming to prepare a workforce that will see millions of jobs lost to – and created by – robotics in the years to come.

Theran Peterson, a tech ed instructor at Wausau West, said the high school’s tech ed program teaches students how to “program for simplicity and efficiency.”

“We’re trying to turn kids onto it because if we can get them excited about it, (Northcentral Technical College) has a phenomenal robotics program,” he said.

Peterson – who sees about 150 kids per day, not counting those who stop by just to hang out in the tech ed rooms to have lunch – said all these efforts serve as a gateway to a diverse variety of industries. According to a World Economic Forum (WEF) study, 60% of companies in consumer goods and in oil-and-gas (industries) will lose jobs to automation.

Conversely, Peterson said WEF shows the info-tech sector expects to see a 60% growth in jobs due to robotics.

Wisconsin, according to a study by the American Economic Association, is among the Midwest states that have seen an increase in jobs created by the adoption of automation.

“I’ve been meeting with Northcentral Technical College (NTC) to set up dual-credit classes,” Winter said. “These are classes that can be taught at the high school level but follow a curriculum by a particular college campus, in this case, that of NTC. It’s a way for high schoolers to kill two proverbial birds with one educational stone.”

Tweaking program as needed

Peterson said though Wausau West has followed national curricula regarding its tech ed program, he’s found that building in flexibility has enabled him to reach more students.

The school, he said, has developed a competitive arm as well, with nearly two dozen students participating in the school’s VEX Robotics teams.

Wausau West fields five teams for the competitions, which are held all over the state, regularly qualifying for the state championships at the end of each season.

VEX, Peterson said, sees about 20,000 high schools from 50 countries participate in its tournaments. He said others, such as FIRST Robotics Competitions, add about 3,300 more schools and 83,000 students from 31 countries.

Peterson said the boost in the number of kids exploring tech education comes from a confluence of interests.

“We’re seeing a blending of the traditional shop kids and the engineering kids,” he said. “Because what does manufacturing look like today? It used to be that you’d be at a lathe working knee-deep in metal shavings, but that’s not the case anymore.”

In fact, Peterson said it’s imperative shops maintain clean facilities because of that high-priced machinery.

And beyond the FANUC arm, the Skill Boss trainer – which Peterson said is basically a clear box containing some moving parts the teacher can manipulate to create any number of problems – lets students diagnose issues with an automated system, then explore ways to fix it.

It’s all part of a holistic approach to the evolving economy, he said.

“With our (fabrication lab), they can study the flow of design through creation,” he said. Peterson said the Fab Lab, as it’s called, can turn out everything from engravings to vinyl cutting. The school’s 3D printer, he said, shows students how automation can not so much eliminate a job but reallocate a resource by freeing up time.

“I can spend a couple of minutes programming,” he said. “And then let it run all night.”

As the economy and the manufacturing sector evolve, Winter and Peterson said Wausau West, as well as other school districts throughout the country, are grateful for local stakeholders stepping up to equip the next generation to fill those roles and requirements.

“They want our students,” Winter said. “And they’re helping them make career choices that align with our community’s needs.”

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winnetry.com.

NTC awarded international award for business training

WAUSAU – **Northcentral Technical College (NTC)** was recently awarded an International Award in Lifelong Learning for Best Business and Industry Programming by the Learning Resources Network (LERN), the largest association in lifelong learning in the world.

Brad Gast, dean of workforce training and professional development at **NTC**, said LTC is honored for this recognition by LERN.

“One of our college’s strategic goals is to develop a skilled and talented workforce to support our local businesses,” he said. “It is truly a privilege to serve our district community’s workforce needs and be a catalyst for their continued success.”

NTC’s workforce training and professional development team helps meet business workforce needs through innovative, customized training and individualized consulting to ensure employees and businesses thrive.

NTC was chosen for the recognition out of 6,000 colleges in North America. **TBN**

Bilingual tax help returns to Wausau Hmong American Center, launches in Wisconsin Rapids

By Jimmy Sadowski Feb 29, 2024 Updated Feb 29, 2024 0



WAUSAU, Wis. (WAOW) — The April 15 tax deadline looms and for those looking for some assistance filing without breaking the bank, the Hmong American Center has [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\)](#) sites open in Wausau and Wisconsin Rapids that are crossing language barriers.

Nearly all the staff at the sites are bilingual and speak both Hmong and English which is an asset because there are around 6,000 Hmong people in Marathon County according to the [Hmong American Center](#).

"They're more comfortable because we speak the language," said Hmong American Center VITA Grant and Impact Manager Nasiah Herr. "It makes it a lot easier to communicate and we can quickly look through all their documents and say 'Hey. You're missing this and this and this' and it gets the job done so much faster than having to go through a translator."

Anyone can get assistance at the site, but they are trying to prioritize people with disabilities and those from the Hmong Community because they are better equipped to help them. There is another VITA site at [Northcentral Technical College](#).

The site in Wausau opened two years ago, but did not return last year because of unforeseen circumstances and is back for 2024.

The site in Wisconsin Rapids is new this year.

The Hmong American Center has contact info on their [website](#) and NTC has their own [webpage](#) for their VITA Program.

Regional Forensic Science Center to be built in 2024

Adriana Daniel Feb 21, 2024 Updated 14 hrs ago 0



WAUSAU, Wis. (WAOW) -- After seven years, Marathon County leaders are almost ready to break ground on a new Regional Forensic Science Center in Wausau.

In a press conference Wednesday, members of the task force for the Regional Forensic Science Center described it as 'more than a morgue'.

The center will offer will be a benefit to law enforcement across northern Wisconsin and residents as well.

Most of northern Wisconsin's law enforcement relies on the southern counties' forensic services. That is the reality in Marathon County as well. With the creation of a forensic service in the area, organizers say it will save the county [\\$43,000 annually](#).

The lab will also serve as a classroom for students in a variety of fields.

"Our program areas have indicated this will be essential to include in the curriculum for students in multiple programs," Jeannie Worden, President, of [Northcentral Technical College](#), said. "Again, it's going to set them apart, and they are going to have a skill they wouldn't be able to learn elsewhere."

The center will be off West Campus Drive on the North Central Technical College campus in Wausau.

Leaders are hoping to break ground this spring.

NTC hosting FAFSA Completion event Thursday

By Jimmy Sadowski Feb 1, 2024 Updated Feb 1, 2024 3



WAUSAU, Wis. (WAOW) — The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be intimidating for both prospective college students, many being high school seniors, and their parents.

In an attempt to try and address any fears, questions and concerns people may have filling out the FAFSA, [Northcentral Technical College \(NTC\)](#) will hold an event Thursday at 6 p.m. on their Wausau campus.

The event will be done in tandem with [College Goal Wisconsin](#)

A short presentation will kick it off and then attendees can ask individual questions and even file the FAFSA on-site.

There are changes to the new FAFSA as well.

"The application is segmented now so the student section is separate from the parent section ... and neither the student nor the parent can see each other's information on the application," said NTC's Director of Financial Aid Jeff Cichon.

He also said the parent section is outside the normal application and the student sends an email invite to their parent to complete their part.

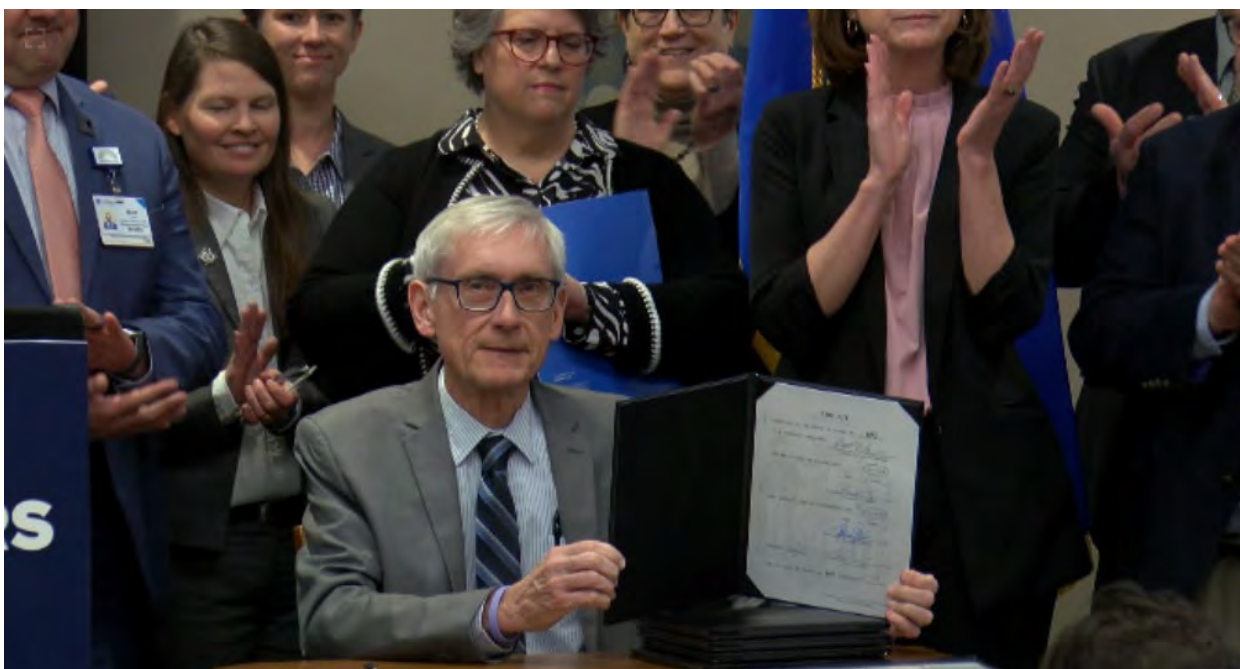
Cichon said those attending the event should bring their 2022 federal income tax returns and W-2s, any record of untaxed income they would have received, and information on investments and assets.

The majority of people filing the FAFSA are high school seniors and their parents, but for students currently in college can file too.

NTC also has additional info for filling out the FAFSA on their [website](#) for those that can not make it to the event.

Governor Evers visits Wausau to sign oral healthcare bills

By Wyatt Williams Jan 31, 2024 Updated Jan 31, 2024 0



WAUSAU, Wis. (WAOW) -- Governor Tony Evers made a stop in Wausau Wednesday at Northcentral Technical College (NTC).

He put pen to paper signing five new non-partisan bills aimed at better oral healthcare in Wisconsin.

Evers said, "The biggest takeaway, people are going to have better oral health. Simple as that, and oral health is tied to all sorts of other things. If you have horrible oral health, it impacts every aspect of your life."

The signing took place at NTC due to their strong dental health programs.

In addition to the 20 million dollars Evers put into oral healthcare, he also put another 20 million into improving facilities and programs.



UWSP, NTC sign partnership on technology management degree program



By [Alicia Schumacher](#) and [Tom Zurawski](#)

Published: Feb. 27, 2024 at 8:34 PM CST

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAW) - A major manufacturer in Marathon County is excited about a new partnership between [Northcentral Technical College](#) and UW-Sevens Point.

Greenheck Group believes this is the future of manufacturing technology and it will keep people close to home. Automation and manufacturing education is reaching a new level. With a few signatures, new knowledge, and opportunities are available to the community.

"It's great to be able to stay close to home as well and keep your talent local," Greenheck employee Jon Kraft said.

Kraft is considering the new Technology Management degree through NTC and UWSP, "That would give me more opportunity within Greenheck to move into management or to look at different positions if needed."

Students in four different associate degrees at NTC can earn credits for a bachelor's degree at UWSP. The partnership is designed to help local companies by educating workers who need a flexible course schedule.

"Greenheck and other manufacturers in our area have indicated that they needed a bachelor's degree pathway for their incumbent workforce and actually their new workforce," President of NTC Jeannie Worden said.

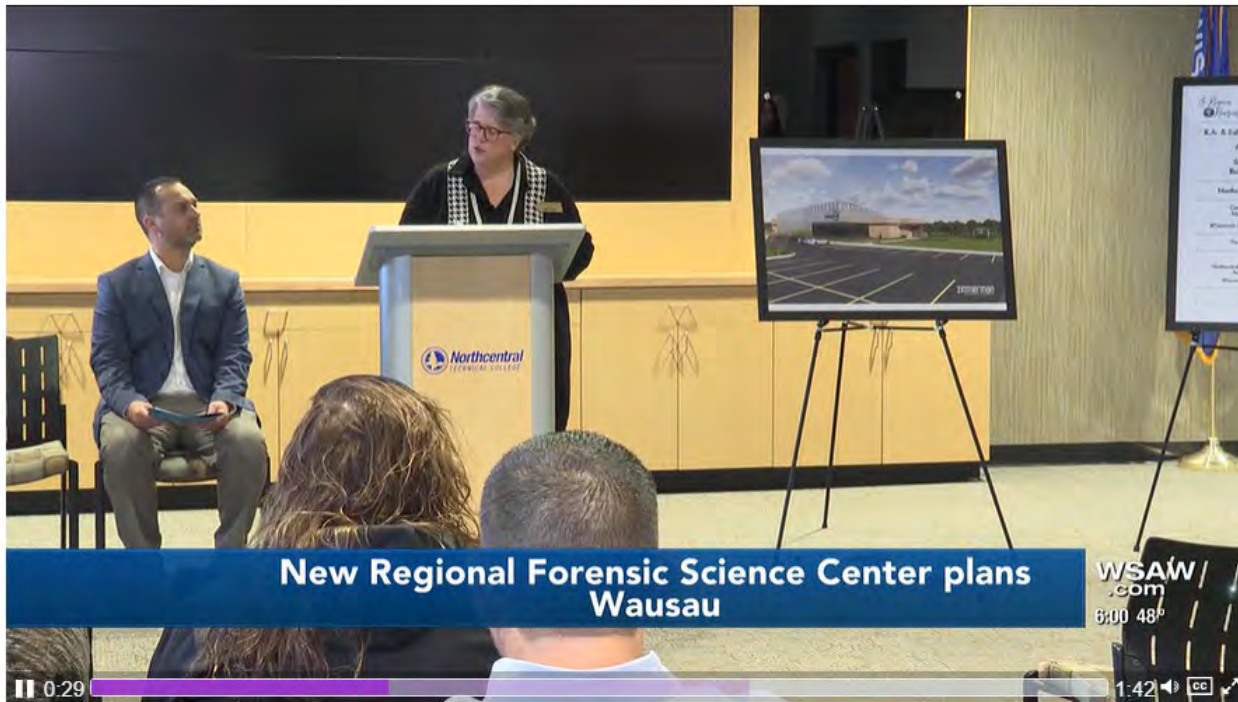
Current students and alumni of Mechanical Design Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Electromechanical Technology, and Automation Systems Technology are eligible to get 56 to 65 credits when they enroll at UWSP.

UWSP Chancellor Thomas Gibson shared, "We're working very closely to deliver education to the region and certainly we're committed to this notion of expanding access to higher education for all."

With the advancement of automation and technology, new education like this is only the beginning of a thriving field. Extra credits will be available through online courses and at UWSP-Wausau

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New Forensic Science Center to break ground in May, bringing many opportunities to Wausau



By [Hailey Clevenger](#)

Published: Feb. 21, 2024 at 5:57 PM CST | Updated: Feb. 21, 2024 at 5:59 PM CST

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAW) - After seven years of conversation, a new regional Forensic Science Center is finally coming to Wausau and Marathon County now has a location and a timeline for construction.

Marathon County has everything just about ready, they just need additional funding to create their full vision. This new center is estimated to cost about \$14.8 million. So far they've raised over \$10 million with help from the state and local partners.

All that's left is raising the remaining \$3-plus million to reach their goal so they can make the center more than just a morgue.

"That's going to be the facilities that are necessary for tissue donation, for the grief counseling for families, that education space that we are going to need to really bring in as Dr. Worden shared all of our partners from emergency medical providers, district attorneys, law enforcement," Marathon County Administrator Lance Leonhard said.

Leonhard said this new center is scheduled to break ground in May. It will be located in Lot E at the [Northcentral Technical College](#) campus in Wausau. The center won't just be for the Marathon County Medical Examiner's Office though. Students from elementary and high school to college will be able to use this center to learn all things forensic science.

PREVIOUS COVERAGE: Regional Forensic Science Center could be game changer for our area

“It will absolutely be a working morgue — that is primary,” NTC President Dr. Jeannie Worden said. “Then we will have opportunities for students to be able to do field trips and clinical experiences and be able to go over in that space and observe and be part of the work that happens at the Forensic Science Center.”

However, the new building will also help law enforcement. Leonhard said the center would allow crime-solving to take place and eliminate the need to ask Madison or Milwaukee for help.

“Simply put, we don’t have the opportunity for those prosecutors to go and observe an autopsy or have face-to-face meetings with those professionals who perform those autopsies on a regular basis and this is going to change that,” Leonhard added.

It already has NTC thinking about the future, including adding a forensic science program.

“That is absolutely a path that would make sense with having a regional forensic science center here,” President Dr. Jeannie Worden said.

The plan would be to move the Marathon County Medical Examiner’s Office to the new location. Dr. Worden said the current medical examiner’s office can only hold two bodies, and the new center will exceed that limit.

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Regional forensic science lab planned at Northcentral Technical College

WXPR | By [Mike Leischner WSAU](#)

Published February 22, 2024 at 7:54 AM CST



Pixabay.Com

A long-sought regional forensic science lab will go up on the [Northcentral Technical College](#) campus in Wausau.

County Administrator Lance Leonhard says death investigations, autopsies, and other aspects of forensic science technology have passed the region by, so it's time to play catchup. "Local health systems used to have the capacity to do autopsies. That changed more than 15 years ago, they became less available. So we have to rely on counties in southern and southeastern Wisconsin to procure those vital services to help families get answers and criminal investigations to move forward. This investment is going to bring those opportunities back to North Central Wisconsin."

It will also provide a space to preserve donatable organs, eyes, and bones along with space for hands-on learning for medical and high school students. None of that is possible at the current morgue.

The project is funded through a \$7 million investment from the state on the condition that the funds are matched locally. Leonhard says they have applied for federal funding as well. The roughly \$10 million that's currently in hand includes ARPA funds from the county and is enough to get the facility up and operational.

The project has a \$3 million funding gap, but Leonhard says that won't stop them from breaking ground. He's confident that more community partners will come in to close that gap and allow the building to reach its full potential as "more than a morgue."

Leonhard was joined by representatives from the B.A. and Esther Greenheck Foundation, Community Foundation of Northcentral Wisconsin, NTC, and the Medical College of Wisconsin for Wednesday's announcement.

NTC President Dr. Jeannie Worden says it presents an opportunity for the school to provide a needed service while allowing their students to gain real-world experience. "This state-of-the-art space will replicate the work environment. When people go in they will be working with doctors, paramedics, coroners, all different levels [of professionals.] That gives our learners and our community a leg up.

Worden says students from other schools including the Medical College of Wisconsin-Wausau campus, UWSP Wausau, and local high schools will also have a chance to learn in the new lab. "We will have educational pathways in multiple areas," she added.

The facility will be built in Parking Lot E on the NTC campus, near the Center for Business and Industry and the motorcycle testing area. Worden adds that the facility will have access to NTC's

Space at the NTC campus that will become a regional Forensic Science Lab. MWC photo by Mike Leischner

digital infrastructure, meaning there will be no need to build that from scratch. That connectivity will also allow NTC to broadcast continuing education classes through their current online platform while they train local coroners and forensic science professionals closer to home.

"Right now they have to travel elsewhere for that continuing education [when that could happen] right here. We will be able to do that in person or through our robust online module," said Worden.

Leonhard expects that the County Board will be able to approve the construction contracts in the next few weeks, with groundbreaking later this summer. No completion date has been set.

New Regional Forensic Science Lab Coming to NTC Campus

By Mike Leischner

Feb 21, 2024 | 1:04 PM



Artist rendering of the proposed Forensic Science Lab in Wausau. Image courtesy: Marathon County

WAUSAU, WI (WSAU) — A long-sought regional forensic science lab will go up on the Northcentral Technical College campus in Wausau.

County Administrator Lance Leonhard says death investigations, autopsies, and other aspects of forensic science technology have passed the region by, so it's time to play catchup. "Local health systems used to have the capacity to do autopsies. That changed more than 15 years ago, they became less available. So we have to rely on counties in southern and southeastern Wisconsin to procure those vital services to help families get answers and criminal investigations to move forward. This investment is going to bring those opportunities back to North Central Wisconsin."

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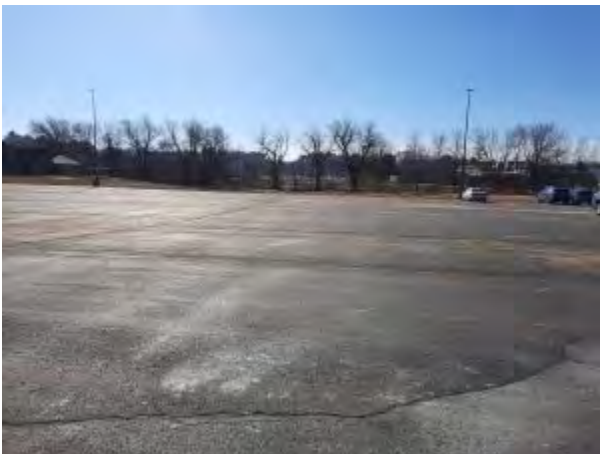
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Space at the NTC campus that will become a regional Forensic Science Lab. MWC photo by Mike Leischner

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Wausau Pilot & Review

UWSP, NTC sign partnership for technology management degree completion program



A new partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Northcentral Technical College offers students a degree completion program in technology management through both institutions.

Administrators from the schools met today at Greenheck in Wausau to sign an agreement that awards equivalent credits to those who complete four different technology associate degrees at NTC upon entry into UW-Stevens Point's multidisciplinary major: technology management option. Students would then earn 56-65 credits at UW-Stevens Point to earn a bachelor of science degree. Most of the additional credits are offered online or at UWSP at Wausau.

The applicable NTC associate degrees include mechanical design engineering technology, manufacturing engineering technology, electromechanical technology and automation systems technology.

The agreement represents the culmination of collaborative discussions among regional employers and NTC and UW-Stevens Point representatives to develop academic partnerships that further prepare the workforce in management, engineering and communication skills.

"This kind of educational partnership is invaluable to manufacturing employers," said Scott Graf, chief manufacturing officer with Greenheck Group. "The future of manufacturing increasingly relies on greater levels of automation and technology, which in turn, requires greater technical management skills. UWSP and NTC have created a flexible program that allows incumbent employees to earn career advancement while remaining employed."

"We are excited to once again collaborate with our excellent partners at UW-Stevens Point to expand local educational opportunities that directly benefit students and local manufacturers," said NTC President Jeannie Worden. "This agreement ensures learners have the opportunity to obtain their baccalaureate degree locally, and local employers have access to the skilled workforce they need."

"This degree completion program was designed to offer students and working adults options to complete a bachelor's degree and increase their earning potential with flexible class options close to home," said UW-Stevens Point Chancellor Thomas Gibson. "We are grateful for our regional education and industry partners as we all work together to strengthen our workforce and economy."

Source: UW-Stevens Point



UWSP, NTC sign partnership for technology management degree completion program

February 28, 2024

Metro Wire Staff

A new partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Northcentral Technical College (NTC) offers students a degree completion program in technology management through both institutions.

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NTC and UWSP Unite for Tech Management Degree, Boosting Local Manufacturing Talent

Explore the groundbreaking partnership between NTC and UWSP as they introduce a new Technology Management degree program, bridging the gap between education and industry to meet the growing demands of the local manufacturing sector.



Israel Ojoko

27 Feb 2024 21:52 EST

Updated On: 27 Feb 2024 22:13 EST



In a groundbreaking collaboration, [Northcentral Technical College \(NTC\)](#) and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) have joined forces to launch a new Technology Management degree program. This strategic partnership, celebrated by Greenheck Group and other local manufacturers, is set to revolutionize manufacturing technology education and workforce development in Marathon County.

The newly established degree program is a beacon of innovation in technical education, offering a seamless transition for students from an associate to a bachelor's degree. Students and alumni of Mechanical Design Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Electromechanical Technology, and Automation Systems Technology at NTC can now transfer 56 to 65 credits towards a bachelor's degree in Technology Management at UWSP. This initiative not only fosters educational advancement but also addresses the urgent need for skilled professionals in the local manufacturing sector.

Flexible Learning for a Skilled Workforce

Recognizing the diverse needs of today's learners, the program is designed with flexibility at its core. Offering online courses, it caters to both current students and working professionals, enabling them to further their education without interrupting their careers.

This approach ensures that the workforce remains agile and responsive to the evolving demands of the manufacturing industry. Jeannie Worden, President of NTC, and UWSP Chancellor Thomas Gibson have both underscored the importance of this partnership in expanding access to higher education and delivering it directly to the community.

A Win-Win for Students and Manufacturers

The collaboration between NTC and UWSP is a testament to the power of educational innovation in driving economic growth and talent retention within the region.

By creating a skilled workforce tailored to the needs of local manufacturers such as Greenheck Group, this program not only benefits students by providing them with valuable credentials and career opportunities but also bolsters the local manufacturing industry's competitiveness on a global scale.

Wausau Pilot & Review

SCHOOLS

NTC announces criminal justice graduates

February 21, 2024

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Pictured are Yeeleng Xiong, Wausau, front row from left; Karl Williams, Ashland; Austin Worzalla, Wittenberg; Ronald Knetter Jr., Edgar; Halle Fecker, Neillsville; and Ban Lor, Wausau. Brian Fiene, NTC instructor, second row from left; Sheradyn Mikul, Wausau; Joshua Chisum, Ashland; Easten Schultz, Neillsville; Santos Torres-Zapien, Two Rivers; Brady Paisar, Rothschild; Steven DeNovi III, Rosholt; Daniel Menz, Stevens Point; and Eric Soberg, NTC instructor. Shane Heilmann, Director of Public Safety + Community Safety Simulation Center, back row from left; Erik Naugle, Wausau; Alex Shimanski, Schofield; Cody Schiro, Weston; Will Grosskurth, Ringle; Raphael Cary, Wausau; Ryan Clausen, Mosinee; Benjamin Smith, Weston; and Matt Kecker, NTC instructor.

WAUSAU – Northcentral Technical College has announced the fall 2023 graduates from the Criminal Justice – Law Enforcement 720 Academy.

The Criminal Justice – Law Enforcement 720 Academy prepares learners to enter the workforce as police officers or deputy sheriffs in Wisconsin. Graduates are able to demonstrate tactical skills, conduct investigations and manage emergencies.

Wausau Pilot & Review

SCHOOLS

NTC announces fall 2023 graduates

February 20, 2024

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WAUSAU – Northcentral Technical College announced the following students were awarded diplomas during the fall 2023 term:

Abbotsford: Dylan Price, Jeanne Dunow, Jordy Castaneda, Khiem Tran

Altenburg, Missouri: Garrett Braeuner

Aniwa: Adreonna Bessert, Michael Neuendank

Antigo: Ashley Heil, AudreyAnna Roethle, Collin Boodry, Courtney Thiel, Ellie Kelly, Erik Vasquez, Janie Moore, Joseph Hartery, Joshua Capek, Keegan Yarie, Kylie Felix, Laurel Scherer, Megan Teal, Monica King, Nevin Cornelius, Rebecca Kegler, Shellane Euler, Tracie Morton, Venjamin Barron

Appleton: Kelsey Ritter

Arbela, Missouri: Marye Richmond

Argonne: Luke Conway

Ashland: Joshua Chisum

Athens: Alex Erickson, Barbara Worzalla, Donna Decker, Janet Alvarez, Rebecka Hein, Sherry Gutknecht

Auburndale: Amber Lange

Babcock: Parress Mason

Ballwin, Missouri: David Villegas

Birnamwood: Morgan Treu, Parker Korbisch

Bowler: Tara Moderson

Brainerd, Minnesota: Jordan Buckles

Brokaw: Matt Ineichen

Bryant: Christy Gress, Hannah Schroepfer

Butternut: Grace Wegner

Catawba: Elizabeth Cook

Chippewa Falls: Shannon Schlough

Colby: Elizabeth Dyer, Logan Halverson, Olivia Vollrath

Curtiss: Crystal Nowak, Paige Fleischman

Deerbrook: Kelly Kamin, Kyle Wendt

Dorchester: Melissa Mulderink, Nicole Brice, Susan Warner
Dousman: Holly Roush
Eagle River: Bebe Yang
Eau Claire: Hannah Hase
Edgar: Chelsea King, Devanne Berry, Devin Jacobs, Jordan Knoll, Kaden Goodwin, Kelsey Fons, Kloie Radke, Payton Thornton, Stephanie Hannemann, Tammy LaBarge
El Paso, Texas: Kirsten Hackbarth
Elcho: Rita Manka
Eureka, California: Tyrone Phillips
Fort Lauderdale, Florida: Erick Amaya González
Fountain City: Jessica Tekippe
Friendship: James Richards
Gaffney, South Carolina: Nalee Chang
Gleason: Emma Boquist
Glidden: Gina Beil
Green Bay: Jaelin Olinski, Madelyn Braun, Rachel Nelsen
Gresham: Ashley Hebert, Joseph Gazeley, Quinn Burr
Hartford: Eric Daniel
Hatley: Axel Bliese, Kiara Glodowski, RJ Kluck, William Grosskurth
Hawkins: Julie Olsen
Iron Mountain, Michigan: Brianna Ottinger
Ironwood, Michigan: Tyler Saari
Janesville: Seth Rowton
Junction City: Knox Metzler, Makenna Rice, Oliver Groeschke
Kaukauna: Tapenga Kain-Baumgart
Kronenwetter: Adam Cossette, Beleni Mandli, Courtney Rhode, Jaden Heil, Jocelyn Van Rixel, Kaidee Voight, Marissa Hagen, Matthew Olmsted, Raelena Mejia, Shawnte Williams, Taylor Haroldson, Victoria Sullivan, Brianna Schilling
La Crosse: Courtney Skinner
Lake Orion, Michigan: Brenden Pehlke
Little Chute: Kaitlyn Plutz
Logan, Utah: Gianesi Hillyard
Madison: Zander Davila
Manitowoc: Santos Torres-Zapien
Maplewood, Minnesota: Blake Katzenmaier
Marathon: Amy Converse, Cheryl Rainville, Denise Grondin, Kaci Sessions, Madison Fons, Noah Streveler
Marengo: Karl Williams
Marshfield: Aaron McGreevey, Benjamin Pickett, Dana Buttke, Izabella Troyer, Justin Mueller, Logan James, Maegan Boss, Michael Palivos, Tanille Frankwick
Medford: Cody Ewan, Cole Dassow, Desirae Schlais, Jake Dassow, Jennifer Pester, Jeremia Cole, Jordaan Clark, Kaelee Rudolph, Kiersten Crass, Matthew Gogal, Megan Morschauser, Savana Radtke, Shelby Prasnicki, Wheeler Rogers
Menasha: Matthew Bluhm
Menomonie: Abdal Doumbia, Nathan Kolesar
Merrill: Andreou Goetsch, Darren Allen, Delainy Stockowitz, Devin Frick, Dylan Teske, Elizabeth Breaman, Ellie Gerbig, Ellissa Hohensee, Eve Gruetzmacher, Gianna Stephan, Grace Koehler, Hailey Tellekson, Hallie Savall, Jordan Cohrs, Jordan Smukowski, Jozelyn Gebert, Kea Verville, Kelly Wisniewski, Mallory Rose, Michael Brewer, Nathan Leskela, Rheanna Schulz, Samantha Kasten, Sean Slaughter, Travis Ziegel
Milwaukee: Gurkirat Toor
Monroe: Tracy Schmidt
Mosinee: Adam Brickheimer, Alex Zeka, Amanda Kunkel, Bradley Zarda, Cassidy Polka, Chalee Xiong, Devon Manowski, Dylan Kegley, Evelyn Hintz, Jodie Schillinger, Kelly Dahlke, Madeline Gassner, Maria Wesley, Michaela Mashburn-Green, Nicole Husnick, Ryan Clausen, Sam Kloos, Shannon Lemma
Mount Horeb: Nathaniel Gauger
Mukwonago: Jacob Bodden

Necedah: Matthew Goeb
Neenah: Daniel Koland, Sarah Gerrits
Neillsville: Easten Schultz, Paige Voigt
New Franken: Bradley Boeke
Oconomowoc: David Angove
Oconto Falls: Hayden Weininger
Ogema: Carter Scheithauer, Riley Blomberg
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Angela Everson
Omro: Breanna Cammack
Onalaska: Caresa Jimenez
Ontonagon, Michigan: Roxann Kahn
Owen: Connor Simington, Rebecca Potocnik
Park Falls: Monica Schmidt
Phillips: Alyssa Mueller, Amie Burnis, Courtney Shipley, Dawn Carlson, Jacob Dale, Nikki Shipley, Rebekah Patrick
Phoenix, Arizona: Emily Trader
Pickerel: Michelle Urick
Pittsville: Paige Stewart
Plover: Amanda Golla, Benjamin Springob, Dylan Shifflett, Jamie Mansavage
Portage.: Kelcie Stumpf
Potter Valley, California: Ross Killian
Racine: Victoria Goodnoe-Reichstetter
Redding, California: Brandon Trombley
Rhineland: Cody Everson, Michele Anderson
Rib Lake: Jaylen Leonhard
Richland Center: Autumn Slaney
Ringle: Dakota Coscio, Hailey Glapinski, Tammy Badeau
Rogers, Minnesota: David Prescott
Rosholt: Johanna Glodowski, Steven DeNovi
Rothschild: Alexander Burmeister, Brianna Perkins, Caleb Hanke, Cody Schiro, Kenedi Howard, Nhiasher Moua
Rudolph: Jada Junemann
St. Paul, Minnesota: Brady Olson
San Antonio, Texas: Alec Pedigo
Schofield: Benjamin Smith, Hannah Laska, Heidi Monzon, Janice Green, Jonathan Gibbs, Katie Pahl, Mai Kor Moua, Mason Szitta, Nicole Babcock, Nicole Howard, Niki Rosenow, Tiffany Tatro, Spencer Johnson
Shawano: Bryce Corn, Derrick Rodenbeck, Jacklynn Schroeder
Sheboygan: Alexia Rogers, James See, Victoria Goodnoe-Reichstetter
Sheboygan Falls: Nicholas Riley
Shell Lake: Miranda Olin
Somerset: Elizabeth Belisle
South St. Paul, Minnesota: Alexandra Schreifels
Spencer: Kennedy Kramas
Stoughton: Maggie Kaul
Stetsonville: Nicholas Kowalski
Stevens Point: Bernadette Brown, Cassidy Sartain, Daniel Menz, James Brodjieski, Matthew Peters, Maximus Kvatek
Stratford: Abbie Knauf, Alex Heiden, Autumm Oertel, Delaney Dennee, Halle Fecker, Kaedyn Dahl, Kenidi Palmer
Superior: Crystal Davis
Thorp: Jenefier Rogus, Matthew Rogus
Three Lakes: Autumn Mussatti
Tigerton: Alecia Beversdorf, Robert Burayi
Tomah: Emma Whiting, Sheila Thornton
Tomahawk: Cody Egan, Jackson Gleisner, Jamie Kolarik, Kallie Massa, Logan Skubal
Tony: Sharon Abbiehl
Tripoli,: Melinda Vassar

Two Rivers: Braedyn Ahl

Unity: Brody Much, Mariah Schneider

Waukesha: Kelci Haueter

Waupaca: Samantha Lamers

Wausau: Alexander Shimanski, Alice Powell, Allen Genrich, Alyssa Rietz, Andrew Block, Angel Texale, Annita Xiong, Arturo Murillo, Austin Cantrell, Ban Lor, Baylee Robitaille, Benjamin Noll, Benn Her, Blu Xiong, Bradley Woldt, Brandon Much, Brianna Hieronimus, Brittney Weber, Brooke Kleman, Carmen Lor, Carmen Stone, Chasey Edinger, Christine Swacker, Dalton Krug, Danielle Siefert, David Thao, Derrick Krueger, Donae Fike, Eden Olson, Elizabeth Deverell-Nowak, Elle Stimac, Emily Marvin, Erik Naugle, Evelyn Zielinski, Gabe Izatt, Gary Timm III, Gavin Clifford, George Vang, Heather Voigt, Hunter Kniess, Jacob Pieper, Jamie Hall, Javis Greni, Jay Rein, Jenna Ponshock, Jennifer Gall, Jennifer Hagen, John Knauf, Justin Osswald, Kaila Fendos, Kaylee Pfiffner, Keisha Jackson, Kelsey Krenz, Kelsey Malueg, Kendra Doberstein, Kennen Her, Kia Vang, Kimberly Bungert, Kyle Turner, Liela Yang, Lori Fisher, Madeline Leischer, Madison Voelker, Mai Hlee Vang, Marshal DeVal, Melissa Wieland, Milanni Khlap, Moua Mong Yang, Nicholas Rybacki, Nicole Parker, Nicole Rice, Noah Anker, Pajntaub Xiong, Pauhov Xiong, Raphael Cary, Raymond Meyer, Ronald Knetter, Ryan Bastable, Samantha Plouff, Sara Rosenberg, Sarah Wicklander, Seng Lor, Shayne Meyers, Sheradyn Mikul, Skyla Tasch, Skylar Pauls, Taylor Steinke, Tiffany Gaebel, Tong Xiong, Tyreese Saal, Vincent Moeller, Wendy Schneider, Whitney Berry, Yeeleng Xiong, Yengkong Lor, Zachary Unseth, Zachery Ihle

Wauwatosa.: Kayla Huber, Samantha Will

Weston: AmberRose VanGilder, Andrew Dahlke, Ashley Pintor, Bee Vang, Benjamin Arndt, Brady Paisar, Cindy Xiong, Daniel Conrad, Daniel Dunst, Elijah Johnson, Esther Geurink, Evan Zieske, Huab Sib Lee, James Christian, Jericho Fischer, Kaleb Liedberg, Kalee Lo, Kyle Brzezinski, Mackenzie Neuner, Mulan Kha, Rachel Hansen, Rayon Edwards, Rudy Dvorak, Ryan Hamann, Samantha Neumann, Sarah Hallmark, Txujci Lee, Voua Yang

White Lake: Laura Palmer, Micah Zuk, Tristan Fredrick

Wild Rose: Billie Kirwan

Williston, North Dakota: Kelly OConnor

Wisconsin Rapids: Brittney Schroeder, James Khang, Joanna Paczesny, Tyler Meverden

Withee: Dakota Shelton, Hannah Quante

Wittenberg: Austin Worzalla, Cayla Spiller, Erica Beilke



Newsroom blog: What's coming up for February 21st

By Mike Leischner

🕒 Feb 18, 2024 | 9:29 PM

Editors Note: An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated that the news conference would be held on Monday. The corrected information is below. WSAU News regrets the error.

Marathon County leaders will hold a news conference Wednesday morning to discuss the development of a regional forensic science center, commonly called a morgue.

Marathon County Administrator Lance Leonhard and Board Chairman Kurt Gibbs will be among the speakers. Leaders from the Medical College of Wisconsin Wausau campus and Northcentral Technical College will also be on hand.

Those groups are touting on-the-job training for medical students, a tissue donation suite, and a trauma-informed space that will allow families to grieve.

Wednesday's event begins at 9:30 AM at NTC. WSAU News will have more on this story later in the afternoon, both on-air and online.

Wausau Pilot & Review

COMMUNITY

Largest beekeeping conference in central Wisconsin returns

January 31, 2024

 Nextdoor  Facebook  Reddit  X  Tumblr  Mastodon  Email  Print

WAUSAU – The Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association, in partnership with [Northcentral Technical College](#), will host Beek Meet 2024 Conference in March.

The event was cancelled in 2019 because of COVID-19, but organizers are bringing it back with more speakers, sessions and attendee capacity.

Beek Meet 2024, to be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 16 at NTC, 1000 W. Campus Drive, will provide more than 400 attendees with access to speakers, sessions and vendors sharing the latest information and products to improve their beekeeping skills.

“Beek Meet 2024 supports our mission to help educate people on how to improve honey production and beekeeping,” said Kelly Barnes, CWBA president, in a news release. “In that spirit, CWBA invites beekeepers at all levels to join us to explore how to get the most from their beekeeping experience.”

Hives are impacted by pesticides, parasites and diseases such as colony collapse disorder, resulting in beekeepers losing more than 40 percent of their colonies each year, according to the nonprofit Bee Informed Partnership.

Visit ntc.edu/calendar/2024/03/16/beek-meet-2024 for more information.

About Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association

The Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association in Wausau is a community of beekeepers and others interested in honeybees or beekeeping. Members range from recent high school graduates, to retired beekeepers, with many variants in-between.

Gov. Evers signs five bills into law, emphasizing dental care



Gov. Evers signed the new laws at a stop at [Northcentral Technical College](#) in Wausau

By [Dominique O'Neill](#)

Published: Jan. 31, 2024 at 7:41 PM CST | Updated: Jan. 31, 2024 at 7:42 PM CST

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAW) - In northcentral Wisconsin, there's a shortage of dental hygienists. Dr. Jeremy Hoffman from Dental Visions knows that firsthand.

"We're having to manage shortages of hygienists and dentists and people retiring or people who have left the workforce just trying to get people back into the pipeline," Hoffman said.

He and other members of the Wisconsin Dental Association believe the five bills signed at [Northcentral Technical College](#) will help to increase providers of dental care in rural areas.

"More dental assistants, more dental hygienists, to fill offices where there is a great need throughout the state and especially in our area for those key positions in our office," Hoffman added.

"Making sure that availability for people that struggle or people that don't have access, they now will have access," Governor Tony Evers said after signing Wednesday's legislative package in Wausau.

One reason why Hoffman describes Wednesday as a great day is Wisconsin Act 90. It will modify the existing health services scholarship program to address the lack of rural dental professionals throughout the state by providing funding for the state's only school of dentistry at Marquette, while also increasing funding to technical colleges like NTC.

“I think one of the biggest things that will impact us locally is there’s \$20 million,” Hoffman said. “That has been earmarked for the state’s technical colleges, that includes North Central Technical College, for their oral health programs, which is really big.”

The [new laws signed today](#) are a win for people who need dental care and those who worked to make this possible.

“It’s nice to see legislators come together from both sides of the aisle to tackle important issues, make compromises and work for the better health of everyone in our state,” Hoffman said.

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NTC wood courses draw national attention

DANNY SWATCHER | dswatcher@antigodailyjournal.com | Feb 8, 2024



ANTIGO — Starting next week, Antigo's **Northcentral Technical College (NTC)** will be the site of a forestry-related class perhaps like none other in the country.

Band saw filing.

The class, one of several students can attend not for a degree but for a certification at NTC's Wood Technology Center of Excellence, runs four weeks, and will teach attendees the fundamentals of filing — that is, sharpening and technically maintaining — band saws.

The band saws are not the 14-inch variety you might keep in your garage for light woodworking. These are industrial, logging-grade blades, 7-foot in diameter, the type with teeth reminiscent of a shark's. During next week's class, Mitch White, a veteran saw filer with over 40 years of experience who now travels the country both training saw filers and troubleshooting their issues, will teach students all he can about his craft: how to flatten bumps out of a saw's body to reduce friction while it operates; how to shape the teeth to optimal angles and width; how to stretch the steel to prevent it from buckling. The list goes on.

White said that because of increasing costs in modern forestry-related industries and the scarcity of workers who understand the by-now somewhat esoteric trade, saw filers are being paid at a premium.

"You're probably paying \$1,200 to \$2,400 per thousand board feet depending on the species of the log, and that's before it ever gets on a truck or comes to the mill. If you're paying that kind of money for that raw product, it's important that your saw is running straight, running true, and with as little curve as you can get by with in order to produce the most amount of lumber as fast as you can produce it and as correctly as you can produce it," White said.

"That saw costs \$1,200 or \$1,400, and if we can get six to nine months life out of it, that's what we're after. It's amazing that a few years ago, we used to use six saws per machine a year. Now they'll buy saws by the hundreds and not be too concerned about what the saw costs. If we do a better job of keeping that saw and keeping the machines right, it's going to make a much, much better situation for you."

While companies often host instructors like White in their facilities for in-house training, according to White, NTC is the only actual school in the country providing this type of practical training, information which seems to be spreading,

judging by the students who have now shown up at NTC for his class: they've come from states everywhere from Indiana to Oregon, often at the behest of their companies.

"I really think that we have a unique situation here in Antigo," White said. "Interfor Corporation, which is one of the largest lumber producers in the world, has asked us to do schools specifically for them. We're interested in doing that, but not at the cost of not including everybody else. I talked with Baillie Group this morning and they want to do the same thing. They've got several filers that need some more experience and stuff. We're more than happy to provide that for whoever we can."

Logan Wells, the director of NTC's Wood Science Program, said band saw filing is just one of several certificate courses at the school with growing clout. Since they began being introduced into the program's curriculum in the years following the Wood Technology Center's establishment in 2011, continuing education wood courses involving skills such as kiln drying, hardwood lumber grading, and moulder set-up have also drawn cohorts including large contingents of out-of-state students.

"In our last saw filing class we had a gentleman from California that oversaw their maintenance department," Wells said. "The owner said, 'Hey, we want to know if we should be sending all our saw-filers to this. So go through the class, tell me what you think of it.' And then hopefully they like it and they're going to send more and more people. But then on the flip side, we have people who say, 'Hey, the kiln operator quit, now I'm the one who's drying the lumber.' And they get kind of thrown into those shoes."

Kretz Lumber President Troy Brown, who also serves as chairman on the Center's Advisory Board made up of local wood industry leaders, confirmed that the NTC wood program's reputation appears to be growing nationally.

"I think that NTC's training programs have better recognition across the country than we actually have recognition right here in Antigo and the NTC campus area," Brown said. "We talk about that all the time. I get out [of the area] all the time for my job and people are consistently asking me how the classes are going, and how they can take advantage of the resources that we have here. These inquiries come from Georgia, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania...I get an email, 'Hey, I need to send a saw filer somewhere — do you know what's going on at NTC?'"

Nevertheless, Brown said local companies — including his own — now send workers for training at NTC as well.

"We've sent people to the kiln drying classes. We've sent people to the saw filing classes, and most local sawmills have taken advantage of the different trainings that we have at NTC," he said.

Wells said a lack of technical operators in their workforces led Brown and other members of the Wood Center's advisory board to push for the specialized classes in the first place. He said they have continued to send workers to NTC because them training off the job is now often viewed as a more efficient way to learn than on the job.

"Our local industries said things like, 'Hey, we want somebody that can set up a moulder. We want to train our future workforce to be able to keep our businesses sustainable after people are retiring.' The reason this is here is because our industries said, 'Hey, let's make it happen,'" Wells said. "If my company is making flooring or casing, window parts, if you're making that, you want to say, 'Hey, I have to have an employee who knows how to use this equipment properly,' or else you're going to be wasting product, and that's not a good thing. If I've got a new employee, I've got my production schedule, so this is tough. You have to meet your numbers, and if there's mistakes, those are very, very costly. So if you can come here in a distraction-free environment, it's not, 'Hey, I need you to go do this,' and you're not bouncing back and forth. You can focus on just learning, and then it is a great experience for them."

Brown said the impact of the entire wood science program at NTC is widening, and could grow exponentially once construction of a new, state-of-the-art sawmill which recently broke ground is completed.

"[Besides those industrial classes], there is a furniture-making class that's very, very well attended," Brown said. "It's hobbyists, so it's not just industry-specific. That ends up being quite popular with people that are my age that are hobbyists. They attend them on weekends. It's really good for the economy because people come from all over the state for this furniture class. So it's a really well-rounded program. It serves the community, and it serves industry."



Central Wisconsin Manufacturing Alliance

February 28 at 7:27 PM · 🌐

Absolutely thrilled to share this incredible news! 🌟 It's an absolute honor to be a part of such an amazing collaboration. The communities of Central Wisconsin have every reason to beam with pride, having such loyal and dedicated partners as [Greenheck Group](#), [Northcentral Technical College](#) and [UW-Stevens Point](#) working together for the greater good. This partnership marks a significant milestone in our shared commitment to fostering growth, education, and opportunity in manufacturing. Let's celebrate this moment and look forward to the bright future ahead, hand in hand with our esteemed partners.

#NTC #UWStevensPoint #manufacturing #CollaborationForTheFuture

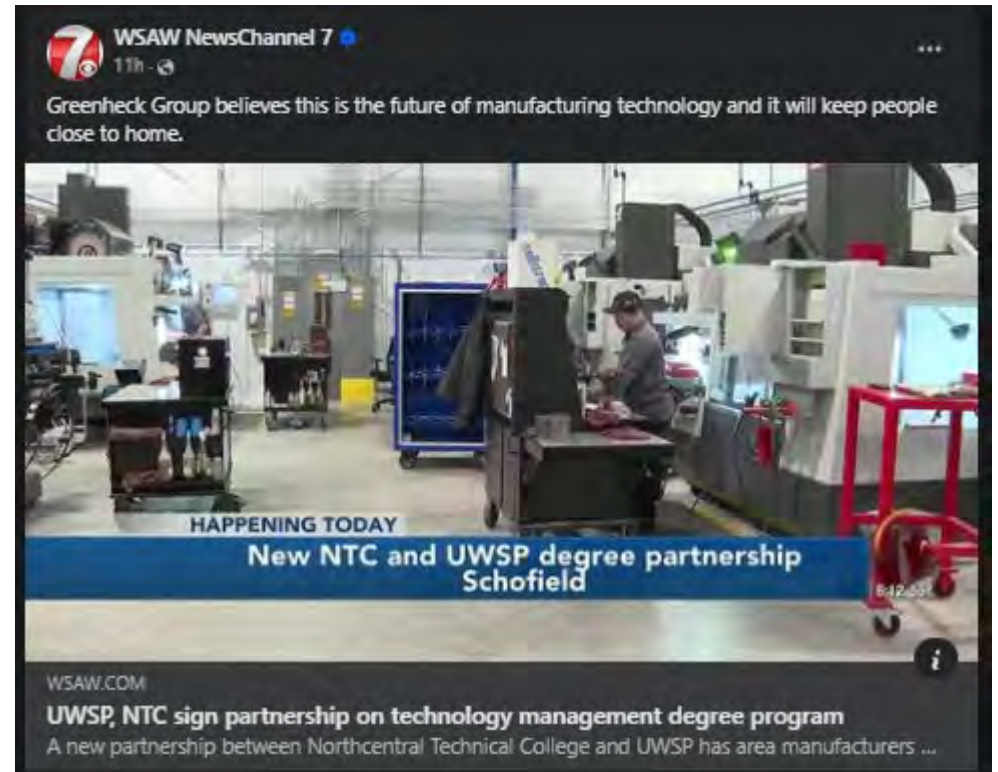


UW-Stevens Point

5d · 🌐

Yesterday, #UWSP Chancellor Thomas Gibson and Provost LaVonne Cornell-Swanson met with [Northcentral Technical College](#) administration to sign an agreement that offers students a degree completion program in technology management online or in-person through the [UW-Stevens Point](#) at Wausau campus and NTC. Thank you to [Greenheck Group](#) for hosting the event! Learn more about the partnership here: <https://bit.ly/3SXJYXU>.





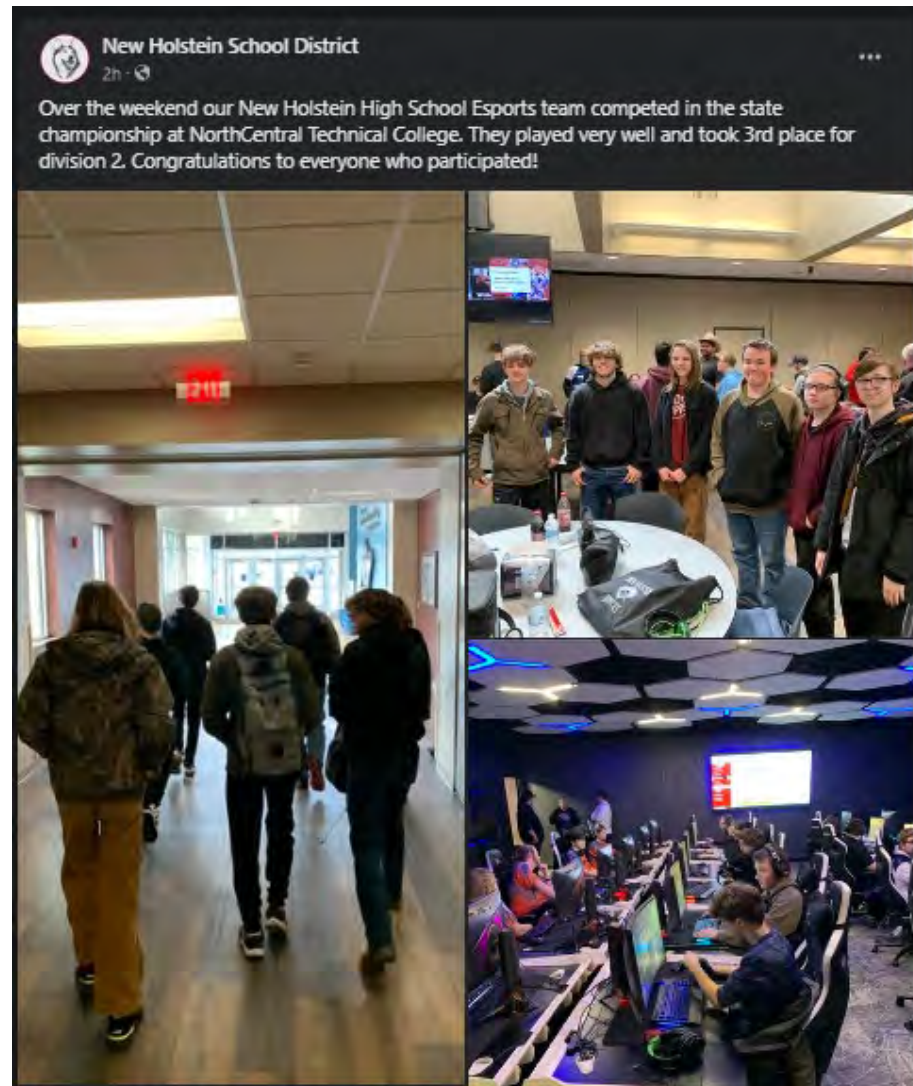
Meet Arkiell Ferguson, Executive Chef of Van Acre, the spirited restaurant located within our Hilton Garden Inn Wausau. Arkiell has been with Van Acre from the very start, joining the team in 2021 prior to opening.

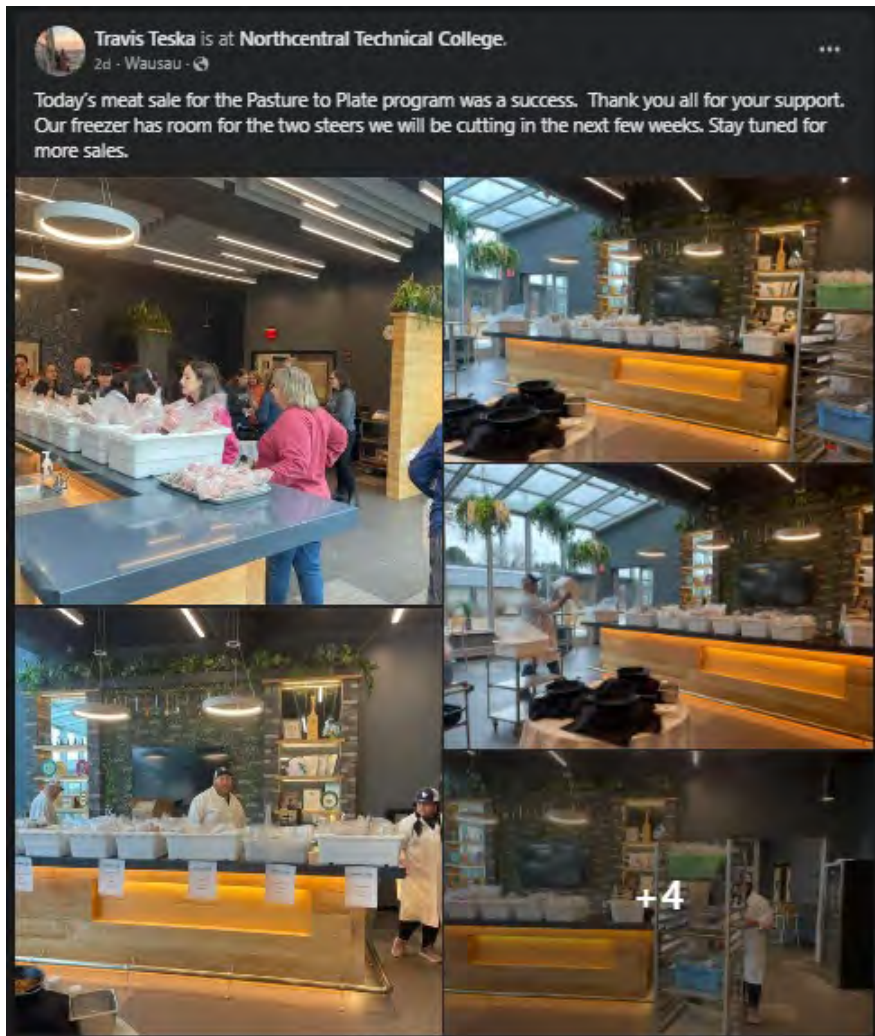
Her unwavering dedication to continuous learning and mentorship are two of the success factors that lead to her progression and systematic promotion from breakfast line cook to leader of our culinary operations. She invests time and effort in mastering every aspect of the kitchen, inspiring her team members to adopt the Van Acre philosophy of delivering exceptional guest experiences through exquisite dishes. As Executive Chef, she crafts culinary delights and fosters a culture of growth, creativity, and excellence within the Van Acre kitchen.

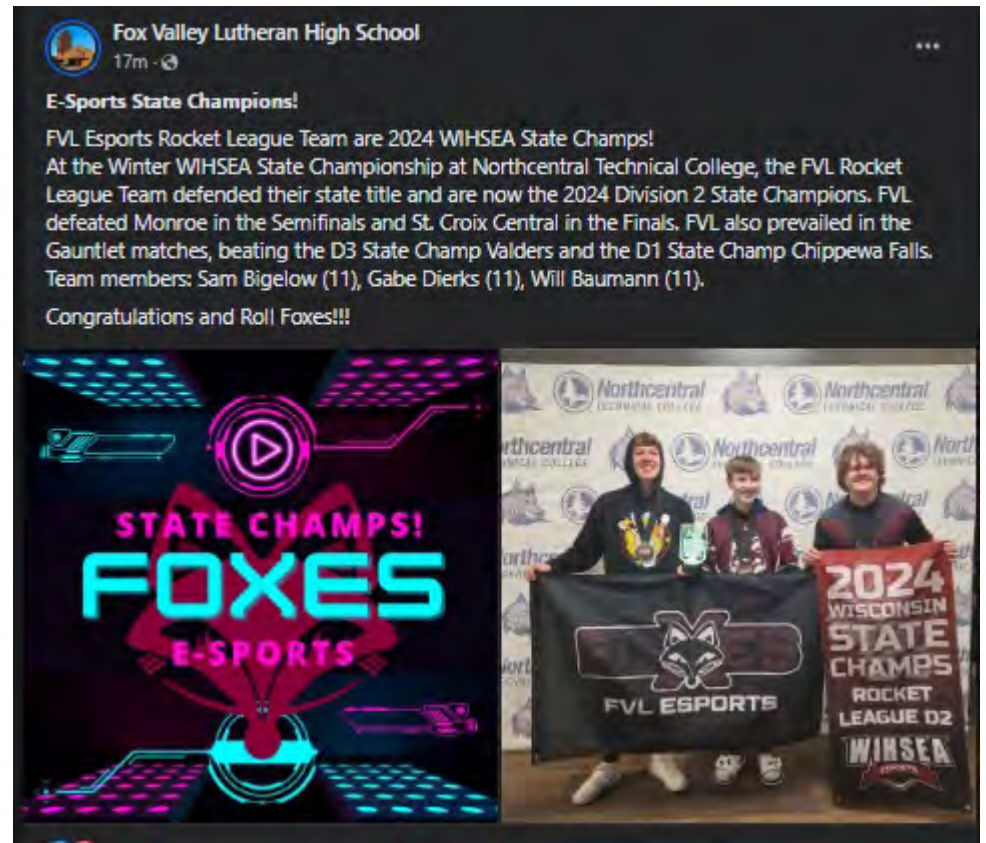
Arkiell graduated in May 2020 with a degree in Culinary Arts from North Central Technical College, which she credits for equipping her with the knowledge and skills to excel in the culinary world. Her academic achievement including recognition on the Dean's and President's lists reflect her commitment to excellence.

Originally from Chicago, Arkiell has called Wausau her home for nine years. In her free time, she finds joy in singing and cherishes spending time with her three-year-old son.









BHS Golden Gamers ESports
2h · 🌐

Tomorrow morning the BHS ESports team will be traveling down to Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, WI. They will be facing #1 Valders in the WIHSEA Division III State SemiFinals. The game is scheduled for an 11:00 AM start. Below is a tentative schedule and where to find the stream.

GOOD LUCK @ STATE

TIME	EVENT	LIVE STREAM
11:00 AM	SEMI FINALS vs #1 Valdeers	twitch.tv/ntc_esports
1:00 PM	FINALS: VS #3 Pacelli/ #10 Williams Bay	twitch.tv/wihsea
3:00 PM	CHAMPION BATTLE DIV 3 vs DIV 2	twitch.tv/wihsea2
5:00 PM	CHAMPION BATTLE DIV 1 vs DIV 2/DIV 3	twitch.tv/wihsea







1000 W Campus Dr.
Wausau, WI 54401


New Holstein School District
44m · 🌐


The New Holstein ESports team Overwatch coached by Mr. Bandt has qualified for state at Northcentral Technical College this weekend. Best of luck to Sawyer Schleh, Ethan Miller, Carl Westphal, Paul Mueller, and Zarek Gaedke.



 **Travis Teska** is at **Northcentral Technical College**.
1d · Wausau · 🌐

We are having our first meat sale this Friday (Feb-23) in Spoons restaurant at NTC. Come meet our Pasture to Plate students and see what they have made. We have fabricated pork, lamb, and chicken so far as well as a variety of fresh and smoked sausages and both bacon and ham. Come from 10AM to noon and get some protein for your freezer. Cash, check, and card all accepted.

 **Northcentral**
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

 **Butcher**
Block

 **WSAW NewsChannel 7** •
4d · 🌐

So far Marathon County has raised over \$10 million of the necessary \$14.8 million to make the center what it needs to be.



WSAW.COM
New Forensic Science Center to break ground in May, bringing many opportunities to Wausau

Pittsville Athletics
8h · 🌐

Name: Derek Grossman


Family Members: parents- Dan and Tara, siblings- Brooke, Kailyn, Alleah, Tyler, Riley

Years in Basketball: 9

Favorite Basketball Memory: My buzzer beater vs. Wild Rose.

What you'll miss most about Pittsville Basketball: The home game atmosphere, and the bus rides after a win.


Future Plans: Study Dairy Science at Northcentral Technical College

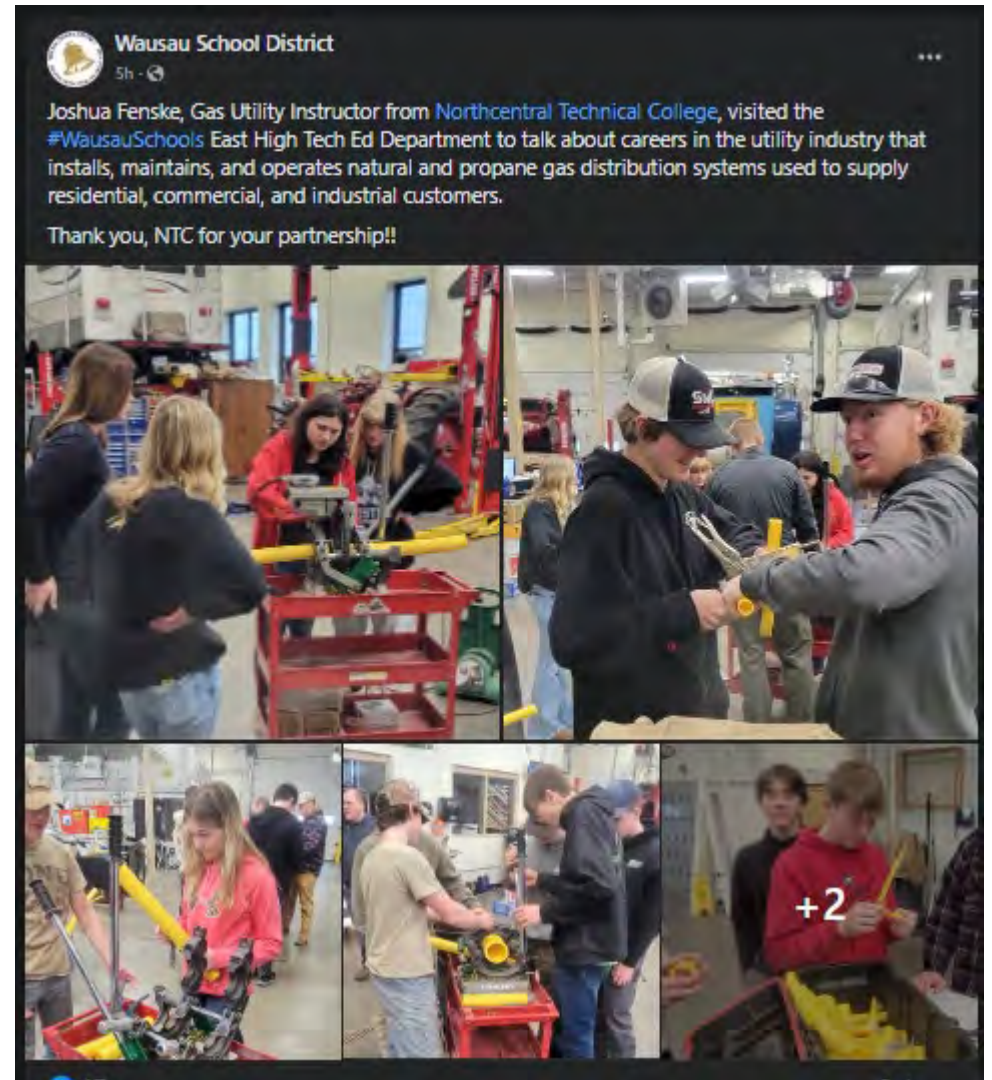


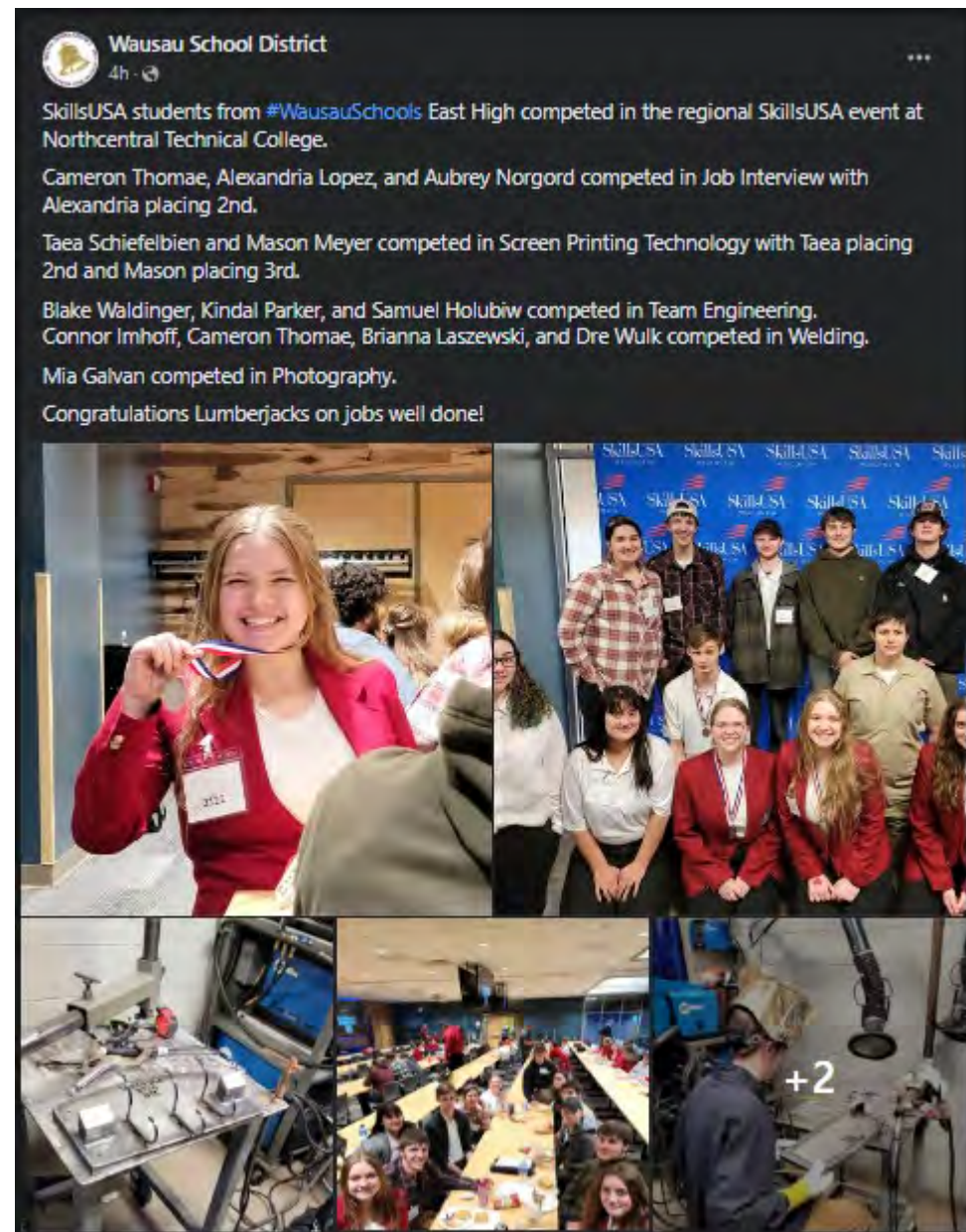
Boys & Girls Club of the Wausau Area
5h · 🌐

WELDING CAMP: Thank you [Northcentral Technical College](#) for hosting some of our high school Club Members for a welding camp! Club Members worked alongside instructors and student workers who provided feedback, support and guidance to complete the project. In addition to making a garden stake of their own, Members learned about the opportunity to work with a career coach and to attend NTC.

[#greatfuturesstarthere](#)

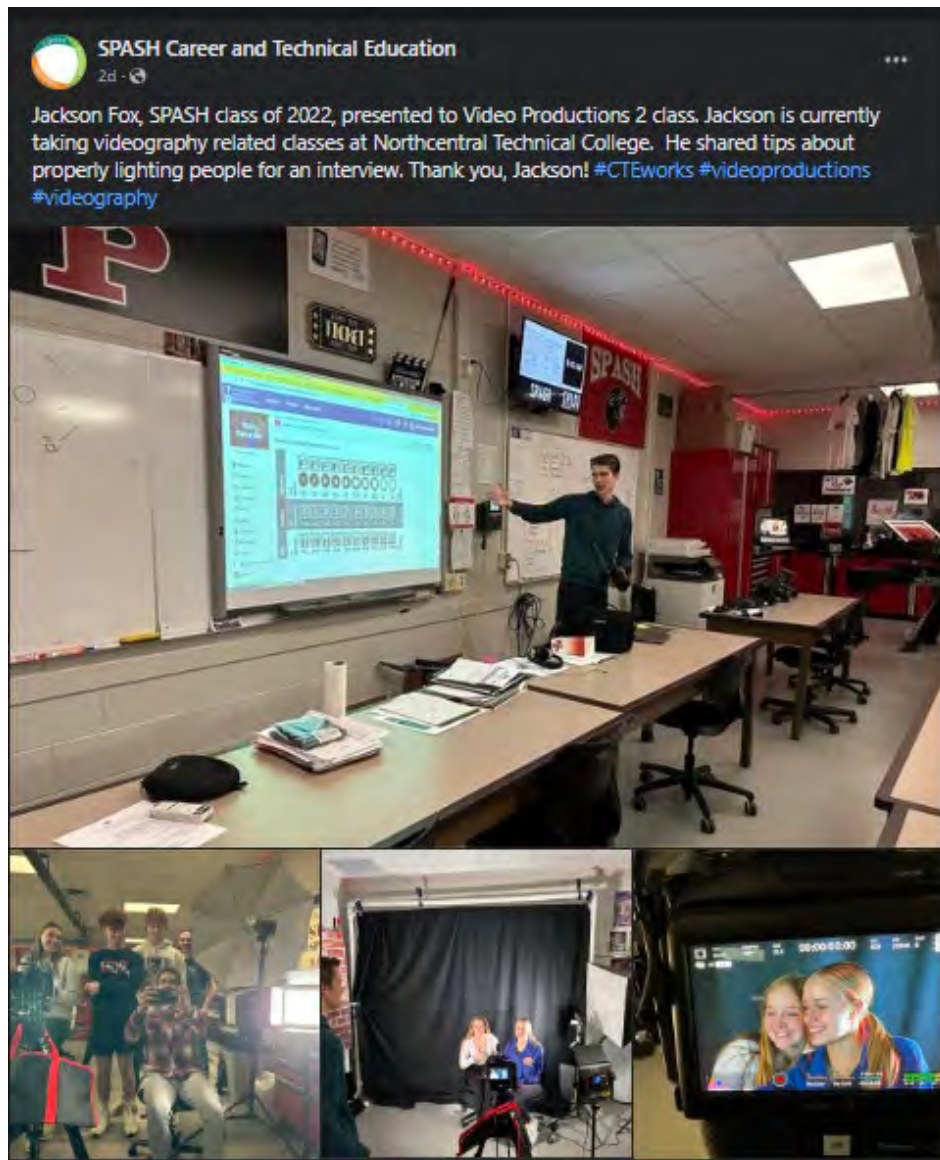




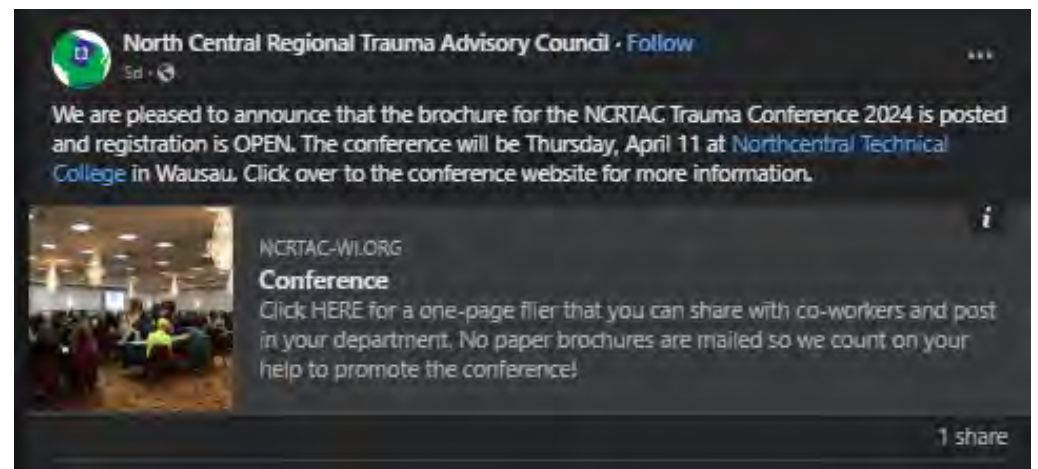
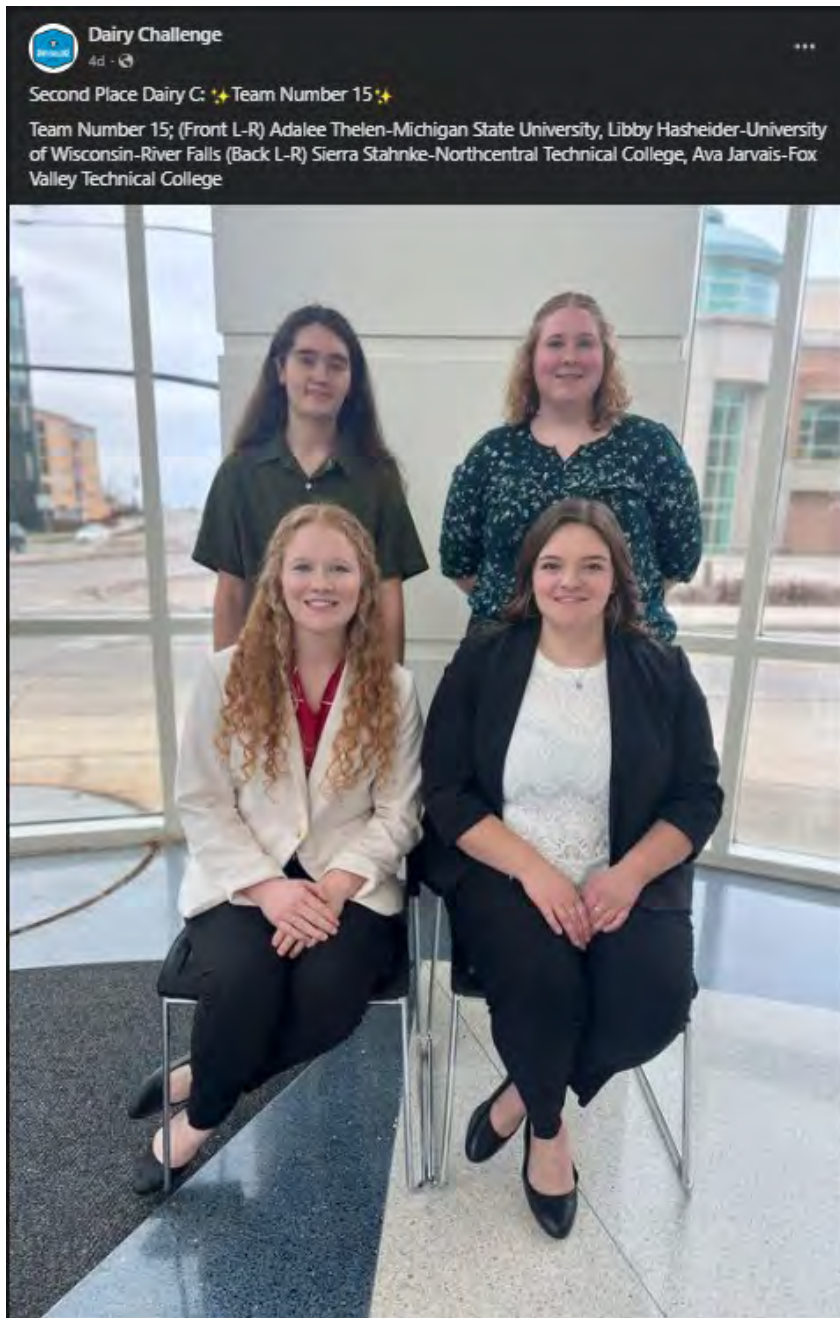


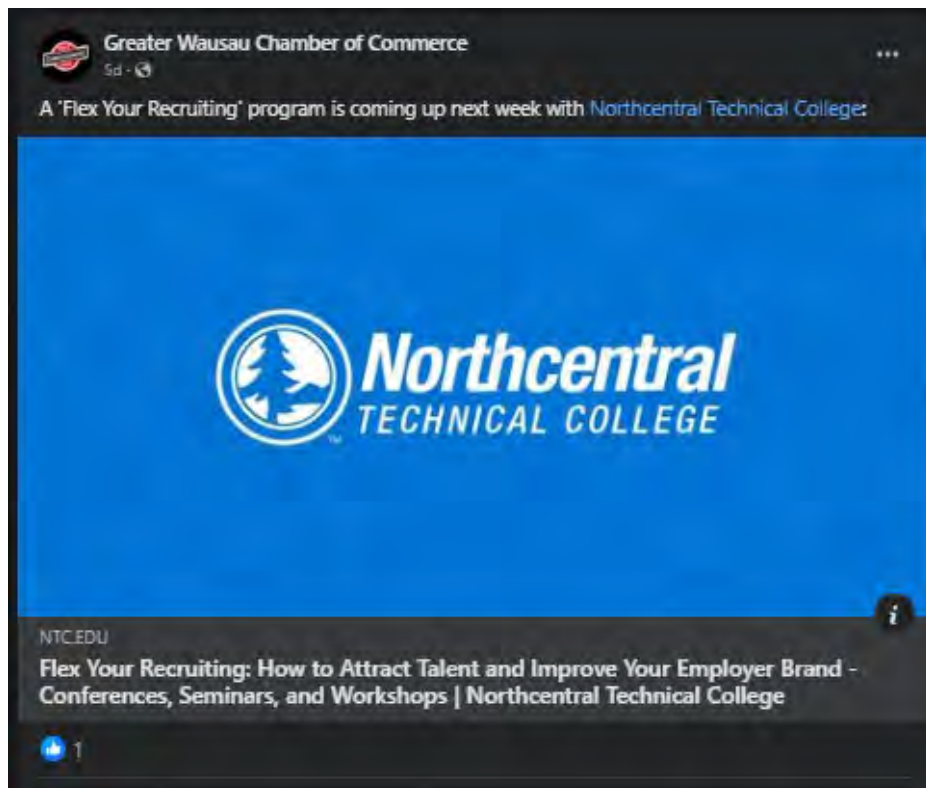


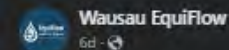












Drop by our booth at the Valentine Resources Fair!

When: February 9th, 4pm - 8pm

Where: NorthCentral Technical College (Inside the Professional Conference Center)

Admission is free for Wausau community members!

#WausauEquiFlow #EquiFlow #LeadFreeProgram #LeadExposure #PFAS
#LeadServiceLineReplacement #LeadWaterServicePipes #InfrastructureDevelopment
#InfrastructureImprovement #CommunityImprovement #Infrastructure #Development
#CleanWater #CBP3 #MS4 #Partnership

WE'LL BE AT THE VALENTINE RESOURCES FAIR!



February 9th, 2024
4pm - 8pm

NorthCentral Technical College
1000 W Campus Dr. Wausau, WI
(Inside the Professional Conference Center)

FREE COMMUNITY ADMISSION



School District of Rhinelander

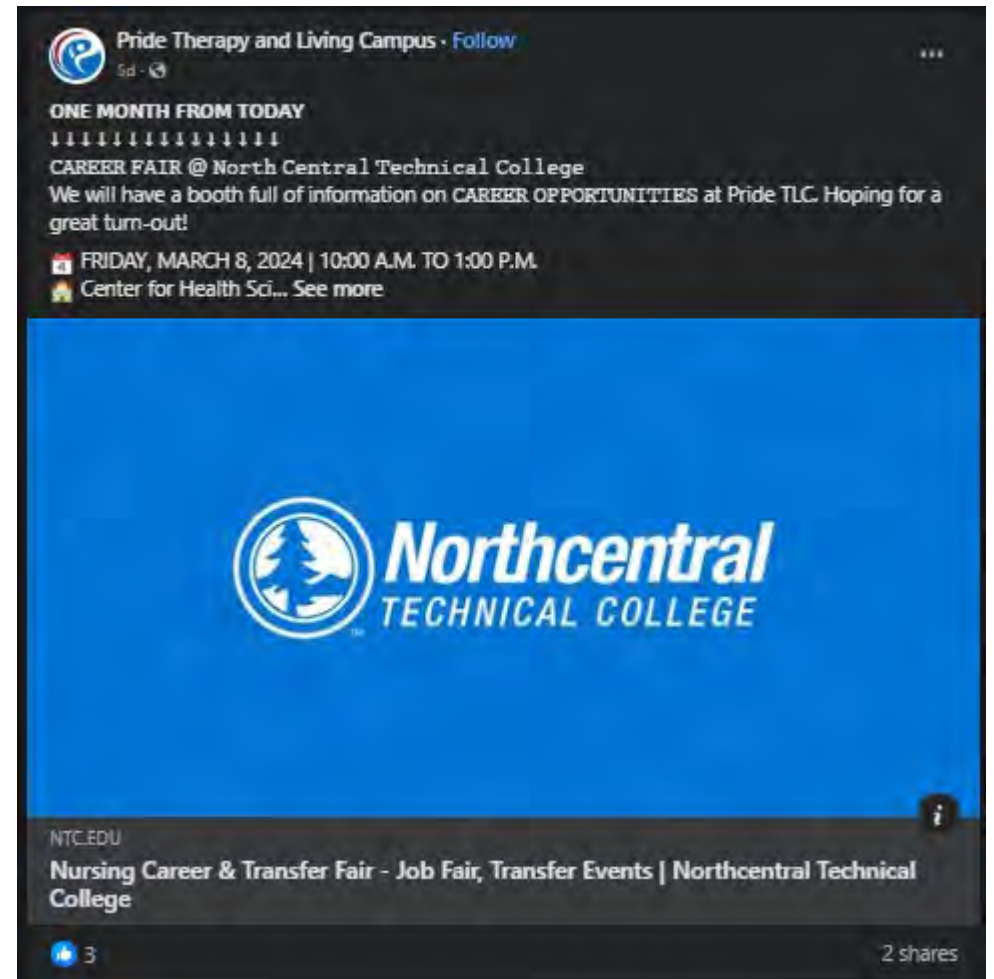
6d · 🌐

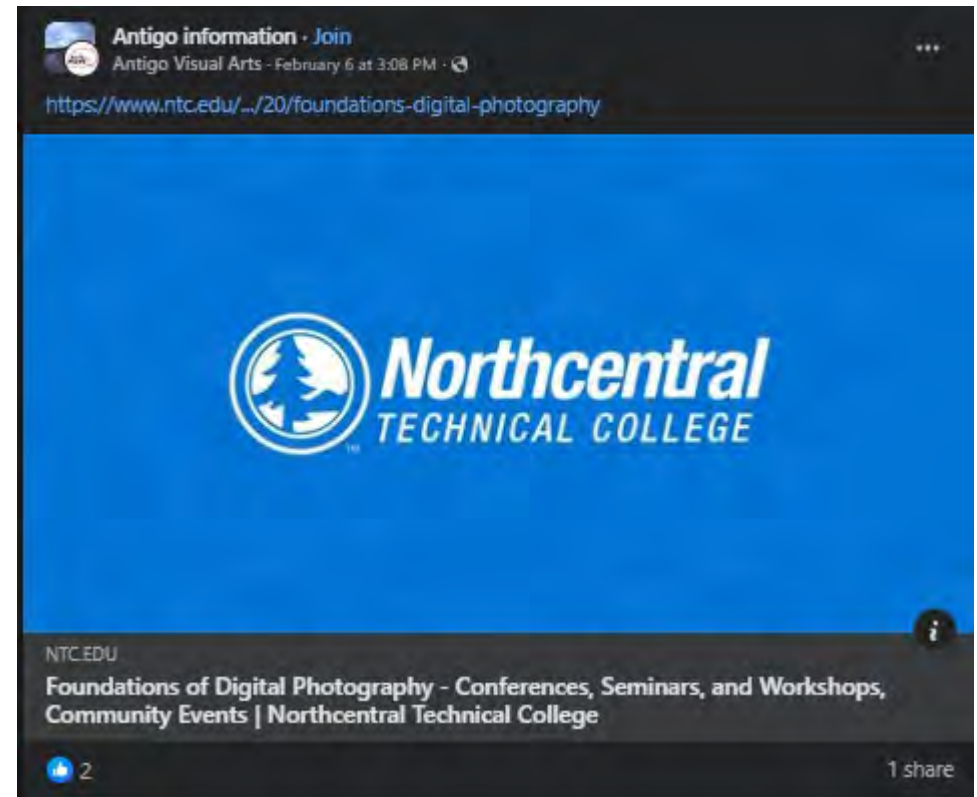
The instructor from the Gas Utility program at Northcentral Technical College came to RHS and recently met with students in our tech ed department. A big shoutout to the Gas Utility program for sharing their knowledge and insights with our students. 🙌

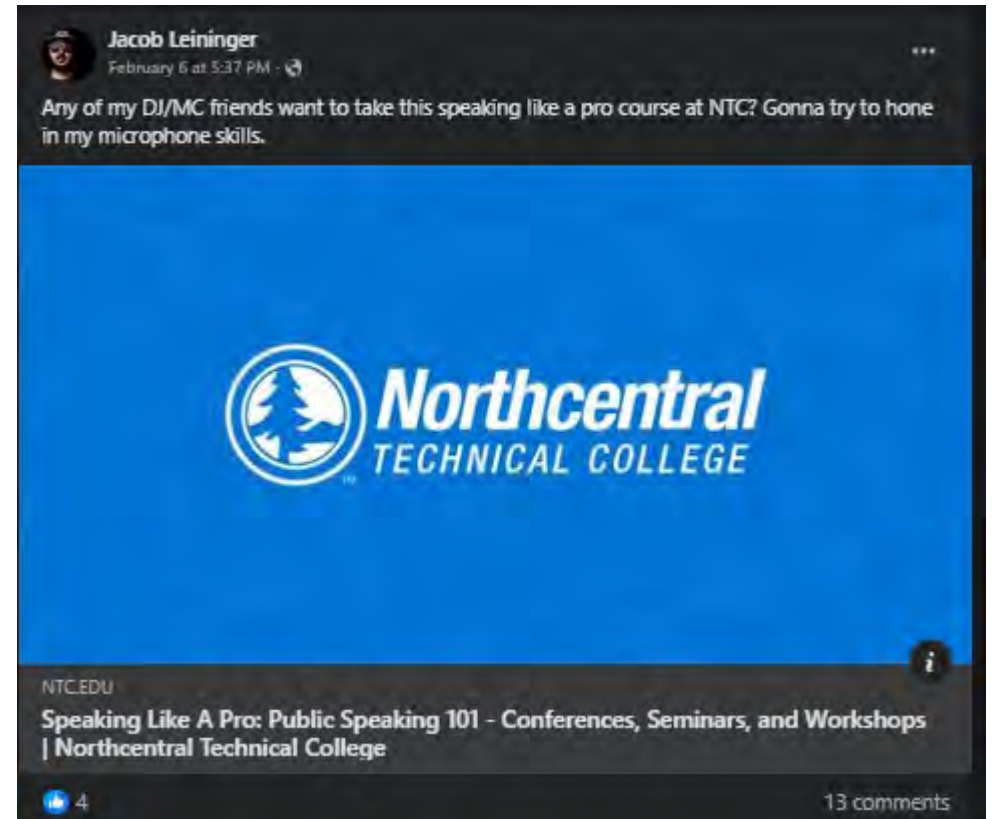
[#TheHodagWay](#)

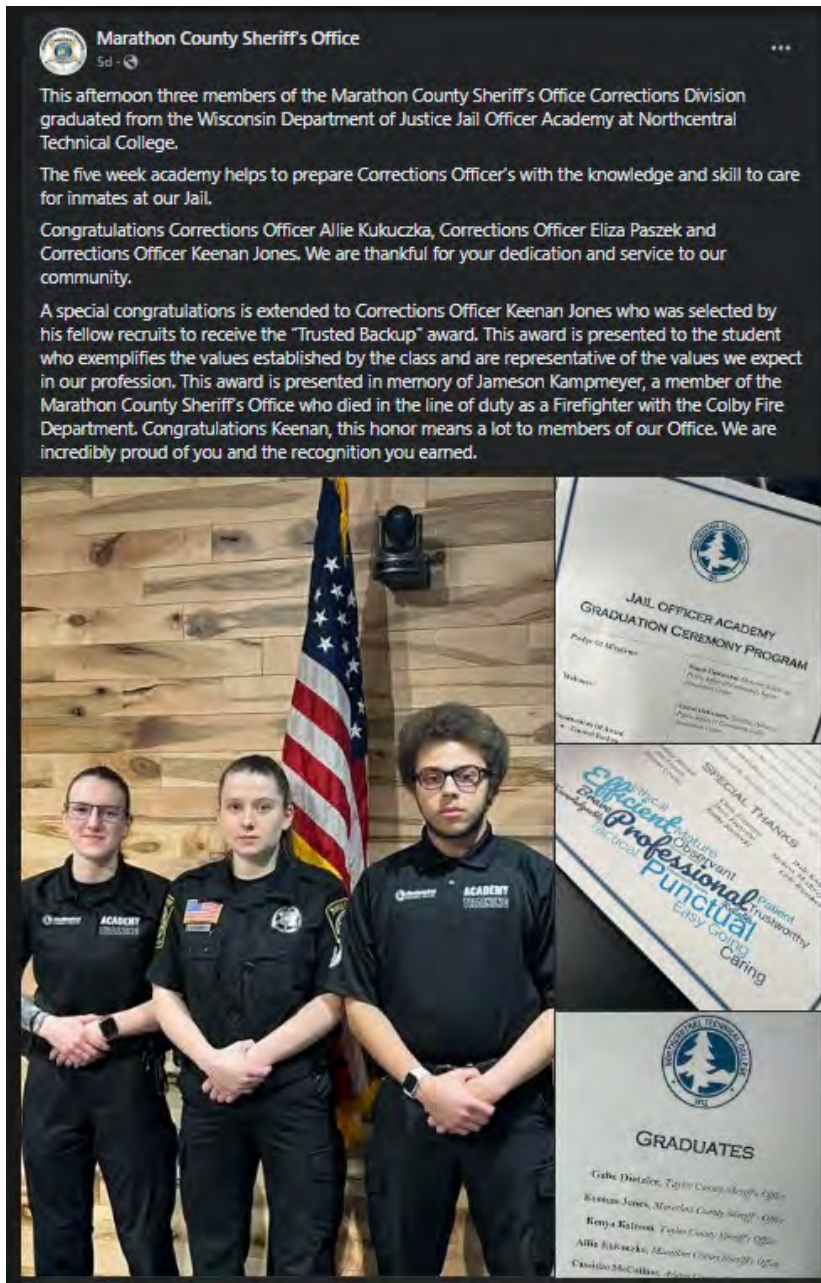














When in Wausau

Wendy Schneck Furrer · January 31 at 7:26 PM · 🌐

Do you know about NTC's Studio Max Salon and Spa? What a GREAT deal!!!!

Students provide all services under the watch of a licensed professional instructor. Haircare services range from cuts and trims to color and updos for any occasion. Nail care services are also provided and include a variety of manicures and pedicures. All services will be available during select times throughout the semester to best support the learning of cosmetology students in Studio Max. Call tel: 715 803 1597 to schedule!

The following is a list of some of the great services (+ many more affordable options available on their website):

- Haircut | \$8
- Scalp Treatment | \$8
- Updo/Formal Style | \$25-\$30
- French Manicure | \$15
- Spa Pedicure | \$30

<https://www.ntc.edu/.../locations.../studio-max-salon-spa>



NTCEDU

Studio Max Salon & Spa | Northcentral Technical College

Studio Max features 20 styling stations that are designed to provide customers with a comfort...



St. Croix Falls School District

6d · 🌐

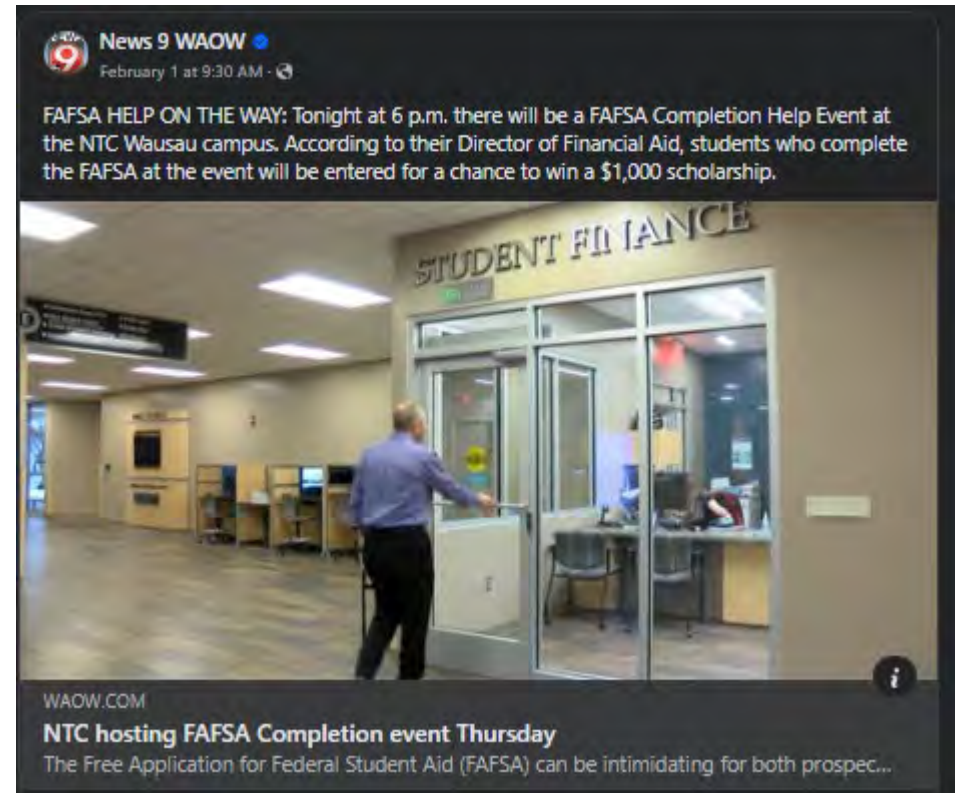
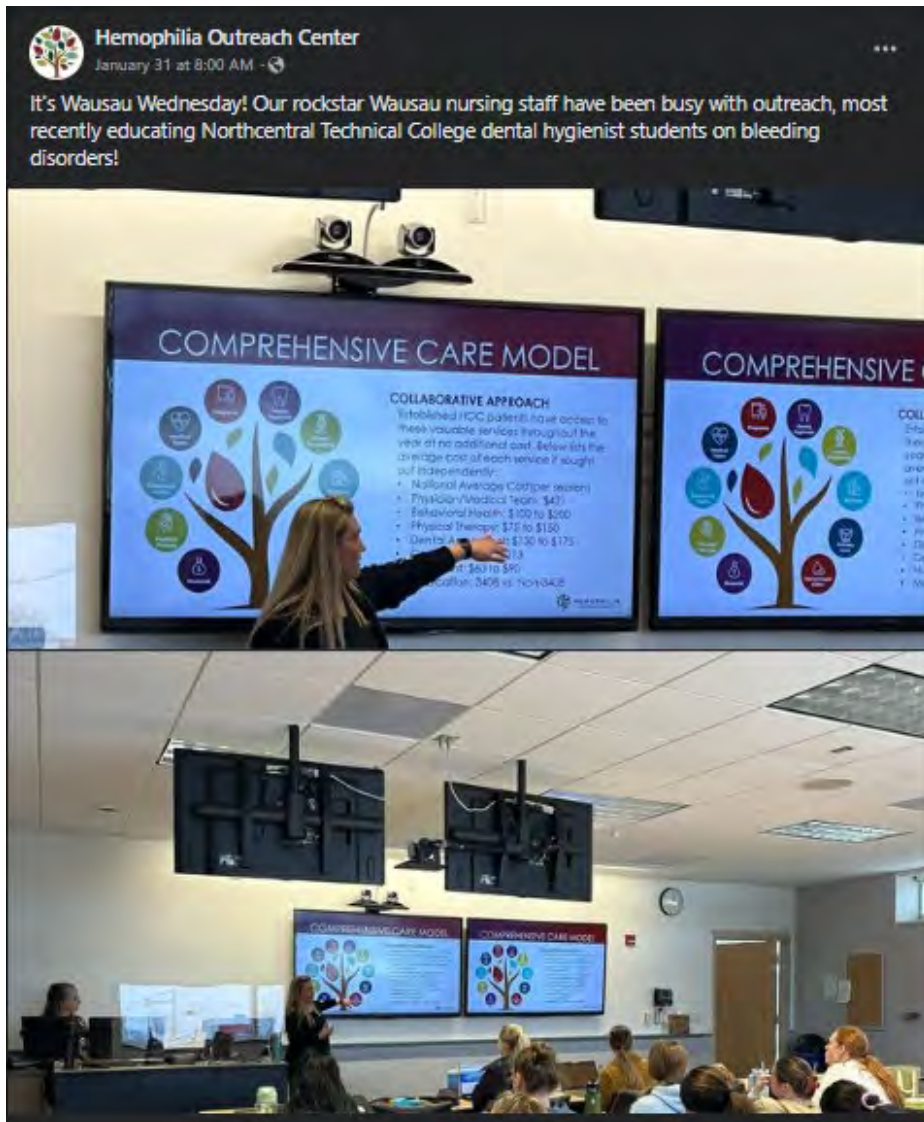
SkillsUSA competed in a regional competition at Northcentral Technical college in Wausau this past Friday. Congratulations to the following students who placed in the upper echelons of 25-30 participating schools:

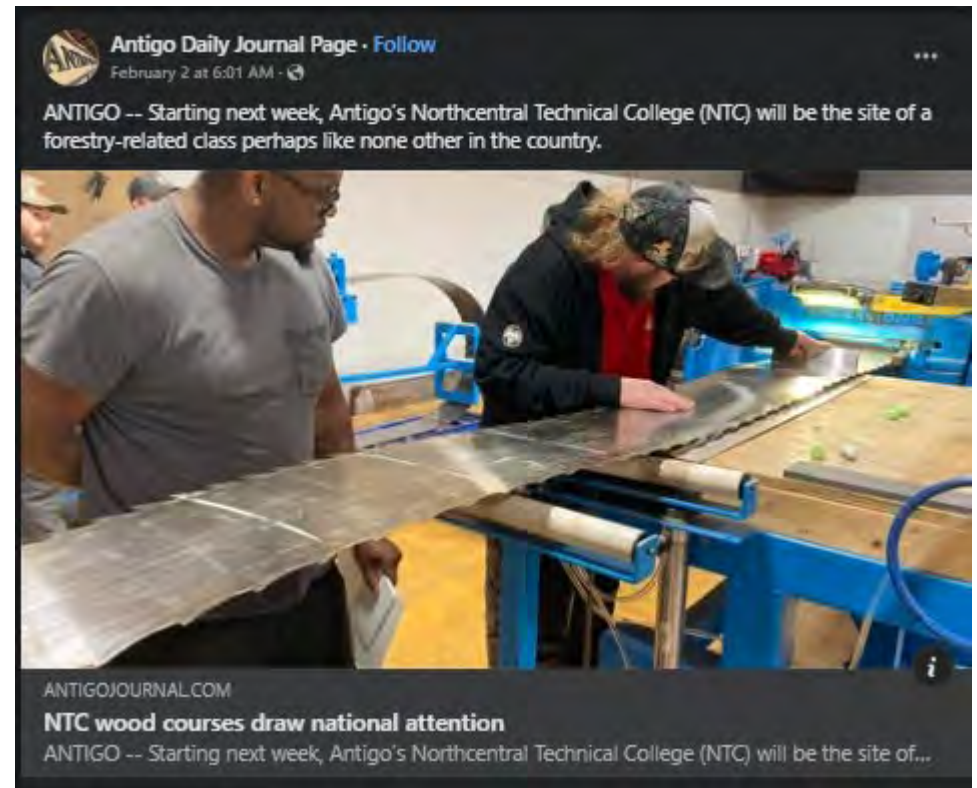
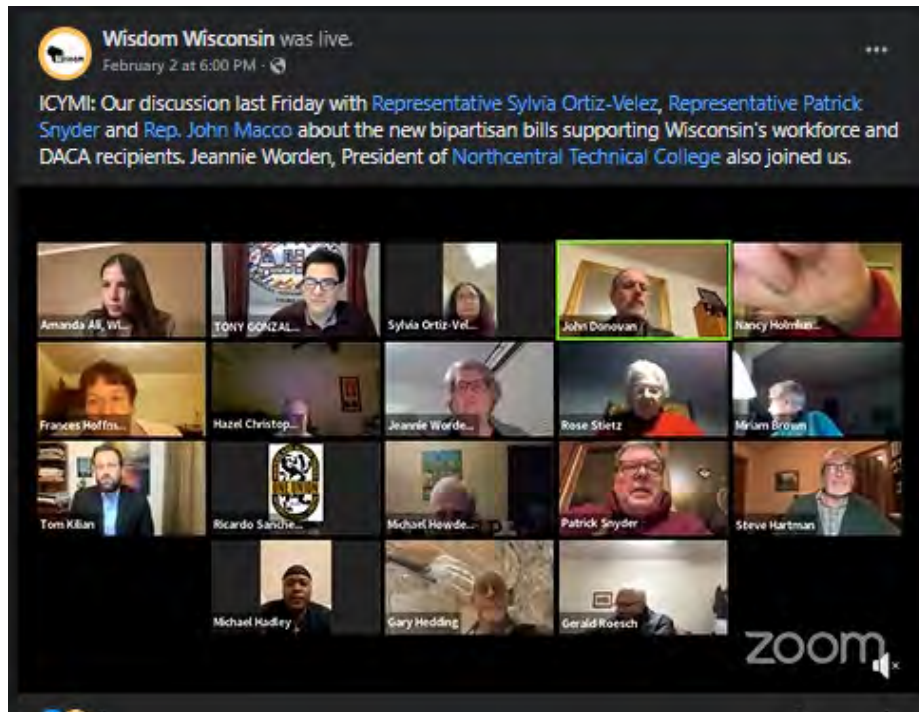
Jon Bateman, 3rd place in related technical math
Logan Fangmeier, 3rd place in Woodworking Display
Emma Jenson, 2nd place in Medical Terminology
Talen Olson, 2nd place in Woodworking Display
Alaina Smith, Champion in Job Interview
Samantha Hinckley, Champion in Screen Printing

SCFHS SkillsUSA will be traveling to another Regional competition in just two weeks at UW-Stout and will be starting the School Bus for the Cedar Lake Speedway School Bus races in just a few weeks as well. Stay tuned for more announcements.









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WJFW (NBC) 1/31/2024 5:00:43 PM

Wausau, WI

Newswatch 12 at 5

Local Viewership: 5,833

Local Publicity Value: \$209.89

access to dental health care. newswatch 12's austin kurisu attended the signing and has more... austin? today, governor tony evers held a bill signing at [northcentral technical college](#) to make access to dental healthcare more attainable especially in rural communities. the bills will also allocate 2 million dollars to [northcentral technical college](#) in support of the current dental hygiene and new dental therapy program. the bill package builds upon governor evers and the evers administration's previous efforts to expand access to dental care and bolster the dental healthcare workforce throughout the state. evers- "today i'm signing five bipartisan bills that



WKOW (ABC) 1/31/2024 5:12:53 PM

Madison, WI

27 News @ 5

Local Viewership: 22,289

Local Publicity Value: \$842.22

cost of care at the point of service and allows them to wait for reimbursement from their insurance provider. i secured funding to help increase the supplies of dentists to the state, improve accessibility, dental care and improved mental health outcomes across the state. the governor signed this legislation at [northcentral technical college](#) in wausau which offers a premier dental program. evers will allocate up to 2-million dollars to support the programs at n-t-c. evers says, this bill package builds upon his ministrati'pvious forts to expand access to dental care. reporting in madison, madison rios, 27 news. ming up -- top social media c-e-o's in the hot seat ocil hill. i'm so tired of th. it's been years ... since the start ofenr yfhe bills, because eone'souble talk, double talk." w lawmars pressed them -- onw they can do more -- to keep ukids safe on social d.



WLUK (FOX) 2/1/2024 7:09:20 AM

Green Bay, WI

Good Day Wisconsin

Local Viewership: 37,142

Local Publicity Value: \$952.92

retiring or people that left the work. force and just trying to get new people back into the pipeline. >>that's why he and other members of the wisconsin dental association believes. the 5 bill signed at [northcentral technical college](#) will help to increase providers for dental. care in rural areas. >>and switch means more demo assistance. more dental hygienists to fill offices where there is a great need throughout the state and especially. in our area for those key positions in our office. >>sure brookfield people struggle that don't have access. 1 reason hoffman calls



WAOW (ABC) 2/1/2024 11:06:09 AM

Wausau, WI

News 9 WAOW at 11AM

Local Viewership: 3,725

Local Publicity Value: \$344.08

1920, let you know if these temperatures are going to continue and how much morrison were expecting towards the weekend. coming up. thank you very much. jackson happening today in [northcentral technical college](#) is hosting events that's aimed at helping perspective. students apply for federal financial aid. >> the fast fafsa can be intimidating. so tonight you'll be able to ask questions and learn everything that you need to know. a short presentation will kick off the event tonight at 6 o'clock at the ntc campus in wausau. we'll also have the option to file the application right there on site. even if you have done this in the past, there are some new changes that parents should be aware



WAOW (ABC) 2/2/2024 10:01:58 PM

Wausau, WI

News 9 WAOW at 10PM

Local Viewership: 7,540

Local Publicity Value: \$612.98

clinics to a registered nurse seeing with storms. elizabeth grew up in wisconsin for most of her life. and she's been a member of the dhaka program for over a decade. she's currently a nursing student in [northcentral technical college](#). she says the passing of a bill like this would help thousands of dhaka recipients just like her. if bill isn't i will have to regulate from technical college. and and i would have look for in a state come back where i how old allies currently 19 states offer some form of access to professional licensing for dhaka recipients, including minnesota and illinois. we're hoping that these individuals. >> stay in the state of



WSAW (CBS) 2/21/2024 4:01:17 PM






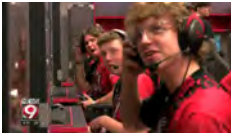
Wausau, WI



Newschannel 7 @ 4pm

Local Viewership: 4,001

Local Publicity Value: \$150.67

finally coming together. today marathon county leaders announced a may groundbreaking for the new regional forensic science center. it'll be located on the [northcentral technical college](#) campus and be more than just a morgue. one of the goals of this center is to help law enforcement solve cases faster and understand cases better. lance leonhard/ marathon county administrator "it's going to offer an opportunity for those answers relative to investigation to be achieved sooner it's also going to allow opportunities for our law

	<p>enforcement, for our prosecutors to really understand the science of forensic pathology." they still need three</p>
	<p>WSAW (CBS) 2/21/2024 6:00:43 PM Wausau, WI NewsChannel 7 @ 6 Local Viewership: 12,138 Local Publicity Value: \$672.65</p> <p>college will be able to use this center to learn all things forensic science. dr. jeannie worden/ president, northcentral technical college "it will absolutely be a working morgue that is primary, then we will have opportunities for students to be able to do field trips and clinical experiences and be able to go over in that space and observe and be part of the work that happens at the forensic science center. " but the new building will also help law enforcement. marathon county administrator lance leonard says this center will allow crime-solving to happen here. eliminating the need to ask madison or milwaukee for help. lance leonard/ marathon county administrator "simply put we don't have the opportunity for those prosecutors to go and observe autopsy or have to face meeting with those professionals that perform those autopsies on a regular basis and this is going to change that."</p>
	<p>WAOW (ABC) 2/21/2024 10:22:46 PM Wausau, WI News 9 WAOW at 10PM Local Viewership: 3,093 Local Publicity Value: \$212.85</p> <p>curriculum for students and multiple programs. again, it's going to set them apart and they're going to have a skill that they want people to learn elsewhere. the center will be off of west campus drive on the northcentral technical college campus in wausau leaders are hoping to break ground this we come back, records are being rewritten. and merrill, we hear from a blue jay who's set a new rest coring mark for school. plus, wrestlers making history in crandon. yeah, i'm just very proud of my. so next in sports, some always emotional journey</p>
	<p>WAOW (ABC) 2/22/2024 6:41:25 AM Wausau, WI Wake Up Wisconsin 6AM on News 9 Local Viewership: 2,420 Local Publicity Value: \$57.01</p> <p>>> health care workers in and around marathon county will see a major upgrade saving time, money and lives. it's all part of a new forensic services center which will be built at northcentral technical college news nine's adriana daniel has what it is and how it could help your family. >> \$43,000 annually. that is how much the county is going to save with the creation of the regional forensic center. the leaders of the project say it isn't just about the money being see gets the benefit. this center will have on the northern counties in the state more than a morgue. that's how officials described the new forensic center planned for and pcs campus in wausau right marathon county does not offer</p>
	<p>WAOW (ABC) 2/22/2024 11:13:25 AM Wausau, WI News 9 WAOW at 11AM Local Viewership: 3,725 Local Publicity Value: \$344.08</p> <p>curriculum for students and multiple programs. again, it's going to set them apart and they're going to have a skill that they want people to learn elsewhere. >> the center will be off west campus drive on the northcentral technical college campus in leaders are hoping to break ground this spring. >> the property at an area church may soon be home to expanded parking for the woods and ymca. >> that's the latest rezoning request from the white which would raze the existing building across from it. leaders say the ymca needs the extra space to to increase in membership. the board of the friends of was a historic landmarks requested that the was the plan commission denied this request, but some members of the community believe this expanded parking is needed. >> and i just got over spinal</p>
	<p>WKOW (ABC) 2/23/2024 4:25:46 PM Madison, WI 27 News @ 4 Local Viewership: 8,390 Local Publicity Value: \$343.62</p> <p>wednesday evening and the other peak shortly after midnight thursday. this weekend. some of the state's best gamers will be headed to wausau high schoolers throughout wisconsin will be competing at northcentral technical college. >> in the game, rocket lee, one of the teams competing at the tournament. it's from chippewa falls high school. this is the first year the high school had an e-sports team and the players are ready to hit the screens. >> it feels great. i'm awe of 24 teams in the state that we had to play against division being the top 4 and getting an opportunity to play in front of it. colleges and other people of other schools. really cool experience something read about.</p>
	<p>WAOW (ABC) 2/23/2024 4:51:27 PM Wausau, WI News 9 WAOW at 4 PM Local Viewership: 12,355 Local Publicity Value: \$311.22</p> <p>colleges and other team plays at northcentral technical college tomorrow. the tournament is live streamed on twitch through the ntc esports chant. >> all right. back with the 4 city forecast. plus, this tiny pig. but you see you right here will soon be in his forever home. that's after he was rescued from a parade and diabetes in kids has doubled in the last 2 decades. an expert predicts th</p>

	<p>WAOW (ABC) 2/24/2024 6:54:24 AM</p> <p>Wausau, WI</p> <p>Wake Up Wisconsin Weekend</p> <p>Local Viewership: 291</p> <p>Local Publicity Value: \$10.86</p> <p>weekend. some of the state's best gamers are in wausau, high schoolers throughout the wisconsin will be competing at northcentral technical college in the game. rocket league. one of the teams competing at the tournament is from chippewa falls high school. this is the first year the high school had in esports team and the players are ready to hit the screens. >> it feels great. i'm awe of 24 teams in the state that we had to play against division being the top 4 and getting opportunity to play in front of it. colleges and other people of other schools. really cool experience something read about.</p>
	<p>WAOW (ABC) 2/27/2024 6:15:03 PM</p> <p>Wausau, WI</p> <p>News 9 WAOW at 6PM</p> <p>Local Viewership: 28,283</p> <p>Local Publicity Value: \$1,019.92</p> <p>frontier. >> and schools are turning bad need into an opportunity for their students. newnight's panda king is joining us in studio with a new partnership that could lead to big degrees and bigger eric northcentral technical college and you wsp are teaming up for a new degree in technology management. students will get a chance to start at ntc finish as a pointer. officials with both schools. tell me the partnership will lead to more job opportunities for their students, especially those going into mechanical design, manufacturing engineering and similar programs. that's because technology is always advancing and the people who can take the who would take advantage of it and learn the skills needed can get a big advantage.</p>

Items in this report: 14

Total Local Viewership: 151,225

Total Local Market Publicity Value: \$6,084.95

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